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J O H N S H I R K

VETERAN OF THE WAR OF 1812

HIS ANCESTORS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

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By

Nannie Hammer Betts

1934
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This modest attempt to assemble
the available information relative
to our branch of the Shirk Family
is lovingly dedicated to the memory
of my dear Mother,

MARTHA ANN (SHIRK) HAMMER
whose stories of her veteran grand-
father, learned at his knee in her
early childhood, are among my
earliest recollections.

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"He who does not reverence
the memory of his ancestors,
does not deserve to be re-
membered by his descendants."

-- Burke.

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Chapter II

John Shirk was born in York County, Pa. in 1787, the first-born child of Joseph Shirk and Mary (Leathers) Shirk.

We learn that Mary Leathers was the daughter of Frederick Leathers of Dover township, York county, and the granddaughter of Frederick Lether (died 1755) of Lancaster county. The earlier spelling of the name indicates that the family was of German origin.

Joseph Shirk was the eldest of four sons of John Shirk of Paradise Township, York County. His mother was Barbara, daughter of Conrad Hoover of Dover township, York county. We find this name spelled Huber and Hoover in the same legal paper. The name Shirk also appears in legal papers, in administration of the father's estate, as Sherich and Sherick, but to simplify matters we shall use the modern spelling, Shirk.

John Shirk of Paradise township, was the son of Joseph Sherk of Hempfield township, Lancaster county, whose father's name appears as Uli Shurch on the ship's-list when he immigrated to this country. This man, to whom we shall hereafter refer as Ulrich Shirk I, came over in 1728. His family consisted of his wife, six grown sons and two daughters, and it is interesting to note that the grandparents of John Shirk, Barbara Hoover and Mary Leathers were probably all immigrants on the ship Mortonhouse, arriving at Philadelphia, August 24, 1728.

Our limited information concerning the earliest members of the Shirk family in America has been culled from numerous county histories and from the results of an exhaustive search of county records of Wills and Deeds, also all Land and Probate records in the administration of Shirk estates have

been very carefully studied. We regret that we have never been so fortunate as to locate or consult any family records, such as Bibles, letters or diaries.

Ulrich Shirk I was born January 1665 in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. Later he lived in Basle, where he married Helene Meyers the daughter of a French-Swiss family. The entire family of this couple settled in Lancaster county, Pa., where they acquired collectively over 2000 acres.

The father, Ulrich I, with his sons, Ulrich II, Casper, and John, located in Cocalico township, Pa. and near the present little village of Schlenker, said to have been so named by one of these early worthies in appreciation of its location. On the outskirts of this town, on one of the original Shirk farms, is the little church-yard where sleep ten generations of the family.

The other sons located in adjoining townships: Michael at New Holland, Peter at Mt. Joy, and Joseph "along the Conestoga", i. e., Hempfield township.

There is meagre information concerning the families of the sons of Ulrich Shirk I, and we have failed to find any information concerning the daughters, Jeannette and Martha. It is traditional that although all the children came to America, all did not come on the same boat, probably not all in the same year. But the little we gather from family histories and traditions, we doubt not will prove interesting to the descendants of the present day. Of the six grown (?) sons the following scant information will prove of interest.

Ulrich II was born in 1704, in Basle, Switzerland, and died in Lancaster county, Pa. in 1763. He married Anna Swar, who was born in Lancaster county in 1720 and who lived to

the venerable age of ninety. They were the parents of seven daughters and three sons, Ulrich III, David and Michael. *

Casper died in 1783 leaving four daughters but no sons.

John died 1783, leaving wife, Barbara, and three daughters, but no sons to carry on the family name.

Michael, who died in 1772, was a miller. He had but two sons, Michael and Casper, and one daughter.

Peter, who also died in 1772, was a blacksmith. He married Maria Swar, probably the sister of his brother Ulrich's wife, and had sons, Peter, Casper, Joseph, Samuel, and perhaps others also. There were three daughters in this family.

Joseph, like his brothers Ulrich, Casper and John, seems to have been a farmer without a trade. He died in 1770, leaving three sons Jacob, Joseph and John, and five daughters. His wife had evidently died some time before as no mention of her is made in his will.

Joseph was quite evidently not the youngest of Ulrich's six sons, he may indeed have been the eldest. Perhaps the pride in the family name Ulrich, did not assert itself when naming the first-born, as seems to have been customary.

But there is no doubt that Joseph was the most progressive of the six brothers. Probably he may be identified as the Joseph

* A quite complete history of the descendants of Ulrich II will be found in the History of the Shirk Family by J. Y. Shirk, pub. 1914, by the Mennonite Publishing Co., Elkhart, Ind.

Shurgh whom we find on the passenger list of the Ship Goodwill, Sept. 27, 1727. Eleven months later came the father and others of the sons. Tradition tells us that one of the sons came first to look over the prospects, and that, favorably impressed, he returned for, or more probably sent for, the others of the family. In addition to his home farm in Hempfield township, "along the Conestoga", he owned several other pieces of property in Lancaster county, as well as in the newly opened York county, west of the Susquehanna.

There is nothing in the traditions of the Ulrich I family, that does violence to the assumption that the Joseph Shoerg who is claimed to have been the immigrant ancestor of the Canadian branch of the Shirk family, was this same man. Though this assertion is as yet unproven, it is far too probable to be discarded without serious consideration.

The history of the Canadian family gives the birth of their ancestor, Joseph, as 1700, which date, if he were the son of Ulrich I, would indicate he was one of the oldest, if not the first-born son of Ulrich and Helene (Meyers) Shirk.

The Canadian family tells us, (history and tradition), that their ancestor, Joseph, came to America September 27, 1727, and that his son, Joseph, was about four years old at that time.

The writer believes it to be highly probable that the three Josephs; first, the immigrant, given by Rupp as coming on the Goodwill, September 27, 1727; second, the son of Ulrich I who settled "along the Conestoga"; and third, the immigrant ancestor of the Canadian family, of whom they say that "he settled in the south at first and later came to Lancaster county where he located and prospered," were one and the same person.

Further argument in support of this theory is found in the fact that we fail to locate any land ownership of Joseph of Hempfield township before 1733. Question, where was he from 1727 until the later date, perhaps in the south?

Of the generous family of the immigrant Ulrich I, many descendants are now to be found in Lancaster county, while countless others, in the same spirit of adventure and independence shown by their forbears, have gone forth to conquer new territory, and found new homes, some to the extreme reaches of the country that had given refuge to their fathers, who, persecuted because of their religion, had accepted the invitation of William Penn to join his colony in the new world, there to start life anew where they might enjoy the religious freedom which their Quaker patron offered.

Something might here be offered by way of explanation of the varied spellings of the family name. No doubt many of these variants on the ship's-lists were attempts on the part of the English and Irish ship clerks and masters, to spell phonetically the names of the German speaking immigrants which sounded so awkward to British ears. Perhaps too, the immigrants themselves, sensing the antagonism to other than English speech in the colony, which fact has been voiced by more than one historian, were willing to accept the form of the name bestowed upon them by tax-assessors and other official clerks, hoping thereby to lose their European identity or the more readily amalgamate with their neighbors who were largely of British birth. But quite unaccountably the single-syllable form Schurg, Sherg, Sherch, etc., after having been garbled into Sherrick, Sherich, Sherrock, and even more complicated spellings, became again, generations later, Shirk, Sherk and Scherck. Our Centre county forbears changed the spelling of the name in the Bible records, from Sherich to Shirk, with the birth record of their third child Morgan,

in 1819, although in legal papers, also some tax-lists, as well as in the enlistment records of the subject of this little story, the name was spelled Shirk. This also was true of the tax-records concerning his grandfather John Shirk of Paradise township, York county, in 1780.

These German speaking people were not clannish in the sense that they kept entirely to themselves, refusing the friendships and companionships of their English and Irish neighbors. They were instead, quick to see that there were advantages to be gained from close association and even marriage with their British-born neighbors, as did the Proprietors of the Colony realize the wisdom of, and the advantages to be gained by the mixture of the stolid, industrious German speaking population with the fiery, adventure loving Scotch-Irish, to create a well-balanced citizenry. One thing they had in common, the love of religious freedom, for the immigrant forbears of both groups were, many of them, religious refugees, who had experienced the horrors of war and devastation because of their adherence to beliefs unacceptable to the powers then in authority in their native lands. To these people, the promise of religious freedom in the new colony, was often the direct cause of their emigration.

The similarity of given names as well as their religious affiliations, make it seem quite probable that the numerous immigrants named Shirk (in its various forms) who came to Pennsylvania between 1682 and 1775 were all descended from a common ancestor. It is to be hoped that future research may determine this point, but such research would, of course, needs be made in European records.

All the Shirk immigrants of whom we have any knowledge of their religious affiliations were Menncnites, the generation preceding them

had suffered imprisonment and in some cases banishment, for following or preaching the doctrines of Menno, the founder of the sect. Of Joseph Shirk's family (of Hempfield township, Lancaster county) we learn that his grandsons, - sons of his son Joseph (of Franklin county, Pa.) - who migrated to Canada about 1800, were Mennonites, and that Christian Martin, who married Barbara, the daughter of Joseph I, and Jacob Herr who married his daughter Ann, are believed to have founded the first Mennonite congregation west of the Susquehanna.

To the deep spiritual sense and the religious background of these earlier generations, can we ascribe the enviable traits of character, the calm serenity of spirit in trouble or in sorrow, and the great spiritual faith which we of the present generation cherish as fond memories of the dear aunts, daughters of our great-grandfather, John Shirk of Mercer county, and of the stalwart, honest, God-fearing sons who bore his name.

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Chapter III

From John, son of Joseph Sherk of Hempfield township, Lancaster county, is the subject of this little book descended. This is the man referred to as "John Shirk of Paradise township, York county." As before stated, he married Barbara, daughter of Conrad Huber (sometimes spelled Hoover). He and his two brothers had come to America with their father Johannes Huber in 1752 and had settled in York county. Conrad died in 1806 on his farm a few miles north of York, on the road to Carlisle.

John Shirk located in Paradise township, York county, as early as 1763. A map prepared for the Proprietors in 1768 shows John Shirk's farm on the border of Springettsbury Manor, a few miles west of York. He may have located there soon after he married which was, presumably, in 1755.

Four daughters were born to them before a son arrived. The eldest named for her mother, the second bore the name of a maternal aunt, and the other two probably named for the father's sisters, Mary (Erb) and Catherine (Mrs. Martin Hoover).

Then came four boys, Joseph born 1765, named for his honored old grandfather Sherk; next John, born 1767, Jacob, born 1772, and David, the youngest child, born 1774.

When the baby of the family was but a year old, came the first rumble of the Revolution. It is no reflection on the patriotism of John Shirk that he did not at once enlist as did some of his cousins, despite the tenets of the Mennonite church whose members were avowedly non-combatants. Nor should we lose sight of the fact that it was through the generosity of the English Queen Anne and the good offices of her loyal subject William

Penn, that these harrassed Mennonites had found a haven of refuge in the American colony now at war with the mother country. The wonder is that any of these people could have so imbibed the spirit of freedom that they were able to forget the rather recent source of their religious and economic liberty and to align themselves with the forces that were striving for political and governmental freedom from England.

However, John Shirk was not remiss in his duty as a citizen during the earlier years of the Revolution, for we find that he fulfilled the duties of Road-Supervisor until 1781, at which time he enlisted in the Sixth Company, Fifth Battalion of the York County Militia (page 527, Vol. 2, Sixth Series, of the Pennsylvania Archives). At this time the war was by no means over, there was much depletion in the enlisted ranks, men were badly needed for replacements in the old organizations. Then there is the not-to-be-forgotten fact that the little family was six years older than when the war broke out, the baby David, was now seven years old, and the eldest son, Joseph, about sixteen, almost old enough to take a man's place on the farm.

But John Shirk's service was not to be of long duration, for he died in 1783. Perhaps exposure or wounds may have been the direct cause of his untimely death, for he was a comparatively young man and he did not come of a race of weaklings.

There is a family tradition, even now as fresh in the mind of the writer as when her childish eyes opened wide at its telling sixty years ago at her mother's knee, "how one of the children of this family was stolen by the Indians, how the father ransomed it by giving the old Indian Chief the big gold watch which his father had brought from the old country; again the child was stolen,

again ransomed, this time the father "beggared himself" to raise sufficient money for the child's return; and still a third time the little one disappeared. This time the distracted parents must needs bow to fate, for there was nothing left with which to barter for the child's return; besides it had fretted for its Indian playmates to whom it had grown attached during the various periods of living with them. This was no uncommon condition of affairs, our Colonial history is filled with instances of the attachment of child prisoners for their Indian companions, nor was this stealing of a white child an unusual occurrence in those days, and in that locality. They lived in a sparsely settled territory, with Indians, supposedly friendly, living in the immediate neighborhood. This could not have been the act of a war party, for this must have occurred after the peace had been consummated with the Six Nations in 1769 and before the Revolution set them once more on the warpath. Nor would there have been any opportunity for ransom had it been done by a war party; far more probable is the theory that it was done through the treacherous covetousness of what we may imagine to have been a golden-haired little girl. Note the five year period between the ages of the second and third son, - evidently a child had been lost during that period, either in this way or by death.

It is not improbable that grief may have shortened John Shirk's life, and the added grief caused by her husband's death no doubt hastened the death of the mother, for she lived but two years after her husband had been called hence. Then indeed was the little family bereaved. The four sisters, all older, were apparently married by this time, and had gone forth from the home roof to found new homes for themselves, - Catherine having married John Lieb of Lancaster County, and Elizabeth having married Daniel Kauffman of Virginia; Mary and Barbara married two

brothers named Leathers, whose home was in the adjoining township.

Great efforts seem to have been made to hold the estate intact until Joseph, the eldest son, should arrive at man's estate, and be able legally to administer his father's affairs and to assume control of the property. A petition to Court asking permission to divide the farm among the heirs, was denied by the jury appointed by the Court to decide the matter. Evidently, Joseph eventually managed to buy the farm, for he mortgaged the whole of it to raise money to pay his sisters their portion of the estate. Shortly afterward, this mortgage was paid off, probably with the assistance of Grandfather Hoover.

Living at no great distance from the Shirk farm, in fact in the adjoining township of Dover, was the family of Frederick Leathers. He had been a settler in York county even earlier than had John Shirk. In all probability he was the Frederick Leader whose name we find among those settlers west of the Susquehanna who were dispossessed and their settlement destroyed by Capt. Cresap in 1738 under the allegation that they were unlicensed squatters within the boundaries of Maryland, (this territory at that time being indispute).

The friendship of the Shirks and Leathers was of long standing as has been stated before. The Leathers family consisted of the father, - called in the records Frederick Sr. after the death of his father in 1766; - Frederick Jr. - his oldest son; - Jacob, John, Daniel, and three daughters, Mary, Barbara and Susanna; also an uncle named Joseph who was probably a bachelor, and the youngest brother of Frederick Sr. whose name was Jacob, and who lived in York (town) and was assessed there as a gunsmith during the Revolution.

The friendship of the two families became an intimate relationship, no doubt, when, following the death of their father, Joseph Leathers became the legal guardian of Joseph Shirk, Jacob Leathers of Jacob Shirk, Frederick Leathers of young David Shirk, (John Shirk's guardian was Andrew Hershey.) To further cement these families together, Frederick Leathers Jr. married Barbara Shirk, Jacob Leathers (Jr.) married Mary Shirk, and Joseph Shirk married Mary Leathers!!

This latter fact no doubt caused much rejoicing on the part of his young brothers, John, Jacob and David, for with the arrival of the new sister in July 1786, the motherless household would again have a woman's care, and we can vision the expectation and the joy on the arrival of the little son, John, who was born the next spring, April 7, 1787. He was named for the dear father who had died but four years before, and great was the regret that Grandmother had not lived to welcome her first Shirk grandchild. This child was our honored ancestor, the veteran of the War of 1812.

Another son was born two years later and to him was given the name Jacob, so common in both families, but probably he was named specifically for his father's Uncle Jacob who lived on his father's original farm in Hempfield township, Lancaster county, and who had died that same summer.

Joseph seems to have been uncertain just what to do about establishing a new home. Could he have but looked forward nearly a century and a half and seen the beautiful Lincoln Highway skirting the old Paradise farm, we doubt he would have decided otherwise than to stay in the home, the farm hallowed, no doubt, by the burial of both father and mother within its bounds. There being no evidence of their burial in any of the nearby

churchyards, we believe that with the farm falling into the hands of strangers, the graves were neglected and in time utterly forgotten and obliterated, providing a great handicap to the aspirations of descendants who aspire to eligibility in hereditary Revolutionary societies!

But the old farm with its memories of happy childhood and its sad memories of the departed father and mother (and little sister?) did not beckon to Joseph as his future home. He bought a lot in Yorktown but did not hold it long, evidently he decided to make a drastic change in their location, for the next year he is missing from the Assessment Lists of York county, also he is missing from the Census tabulation made in 1790, the first Census of the United States. Possibly we may be justified in concluding that since he had given up his old residence and had not yet established another permanent home, that he was so missed in the population count. Again, he may have spent that entire year or the better part of it, in trekking to the new location.

In 1790 and 1791 there was an exodus of York county people to the upper reaches of the Susquehanna and to the Bald Eagle Valley, and in this migration moved the entire Leathers family - (except Jacob, the gunsmith), the four Shirk boys, (two of the girls were married to two of the Leathers boys), the Bechtels, neighbors and close friends of the Shirks, who had aided Joseph in the settlement of his father's estate, and several members of the Huber family.

What was the lode-stone that attracted these people to the valley of the Bald Eagle? We doubt not that it was IRON.

During the French and Indian War - as well as during the Revolution - the local

people as well as the government authorities were much concerned over the fact that the Redman west of the Susquehanna, seemed to have an unlimited source of supply of lead which they appeared able to acquire with little effort and at no great distance from the frontier. Much searching had been done, in an effort to learn the source or sources of such materials, the government even offering prizes for such discoveries. No great amount of lead was ever found in the Bald Eagle Valley but rich deposits of iron ore had been located there and by this time, 1790, forges were springing up along the Bald Eagle Creek which flows northeast along the base of the mighty Bald Eagle Mountain.

If we are correct in our conjecture that it was the lure of iron that brought the Hubers and Shirks to this valley, they were but following the lead of earlier generations of the same families, for we find that John Huber of Lancaster county, in 1755 erected the furnace which was later purchased by Baron Stiegel and named "Elizabeth Furnace", in honor of his wife who was the sister of Huber. On a stone over the doorway of the building, Huber had carved with becoming modesty (?) the following lines:

"Johann Huber der erste Deutsche mann
Der das Eisewerk follenfuren kann."

which in modern English reads, "John Huber is the first German man who knows how to make iron."

But we doubt not that many people were attracted to this locality by the promise of great wealth to be found in these mountains of iron, and one can imagine with what hopes many families left old homes and friends and ventured into this new prospect in the same spirit that the adventurers of 1849 staked their all in hopes of great riches to be gotten with little effort. Where Spring Creek breaks through Bald Eagle Mountain to join the

creek of the same name, sprang up the little town shortly afterward named Milesburg, in honor of General Miles, who was the proprietor of the first iron works in the valley. In a short time there were many forges along the stream and the business thrived for over half a century, until the mines were exhausted. It is said that bar-iron from Bald Eagle was carried on horseback across the Allegheny Mountains to Pittsburgh, the bars being bent to conform to the body of the horse to minimize the difficulty in transporting it along the narrow and oft-times precipitous horse-paths across the mountains.

Milesburg was ambitious to become the county-seat of the newly created Centre County in 1800, but for some political reason, Bellefonte, situated two miles up Spring Creek, was chosen instead. However, the little town had the distinction of having the first post office west of Northumberland. This was established in 1797 and the first post master was Joseph Green, John Shirk's next door neighbor.

The little town grew rapidly; it lies on the site of the Bald Eagle's Nest, so named by the first settlers when they found the wigwams of Chief Bald Eagle located there. Many years before this time the old chief had left the neighborhood, and long since had been found sitting upright in his canoe, corn-cob pipe in his death-stiffened jaws, floating down the Monongahela River. Probably some hardy frontiersman, his finer instincts dulled by stories or first hand knowledge of Indian outrage and treachery, meted out vengeance, - if not justice - to the old chief, and this disposal of his body was his idea of a joke; a more civilized white man gave his body decent burial on the banks of the stream.

The Indians, however, were slow to leave this beautiful valley, but the encroachment of the white man on their favorite hunting and fishing grounds sent them to even remoter places. Yet they could be, and often were, good neighbors to the earliest settlers in this valley. Linn tells us the story of the squaw who, returning from mill with a sack of meal on horseback, having walked the toilsome journey over the mountains from the mill, stopped at the cabin of Mrs. Boggs, her neighbor, to see if she might not also be in need of meal. Mrs. Boggs not being at the house, the squaw divided her dearly bought store of meal that Mrs. Boggs might find it on her return. Yet it was this very same woman, Logan's wife, who with her entire family, was so treacherously murdered at her later home on the Ohio. Logan was the son of Shickellemy, "The White Man's Friend", as his monument at Sunbury tells us, and he named his son for Secretary Logan, who enjoyed the deep respect of the Indians in their transactions with the Proprietaries. What school boy but has learned that marvelous bit of oratory, the lament of Logan on the death of his family:

"I appeal to any white man to say if he ever entered Logan's cabin and he gave him not meat; if ever he came cold and naked and he clothed him not? * * * * * There runs not a drop of my blood in any living creature! Who is there to mourn for Logan? Not one."

The old chief's name is perpetuated in the Bald Eagle Valley by Logan's Gap and Logan's Run.

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CHAPTER IV

But we return to our little band of adventurers, for so they seem to us across the distance of these many years.

Having disposed of their property, decided what they could or rather could not carry with them, given to friends and neighbors the things they could not hope to transport such a distance, said goodbye to the graves of the dear ones, cut slips of favorite shrubs and flowers, dug up some promising young fruit trees that would start a new orchard and be a perpetual reminder of the dear old Paradise farm, built cages or crates for favorite fowls, decided what cattle and horses they should take with them, provided perhaps a wagon to carry the milch cows and the lambs, and many, many other last tasks and errands performed, they started on their long journey in search of a new home, perhaps in a territory as yet unseen by any of the party. Not, however, without many a yearning glance backward to the dear old roof tree that had sheltered them all their lives, and that last goodbye to it as they stopped on the hill-top and then passed out of sight of it on the down grade on the other slope of the hill.

A few miles on their journey and they were joined by the Leathers family, and still later by the Hubers. No doubt these older families would have even a greater number of wagons, and the cavalcade, now grown to a considerable size, moves on its northward trek toward the land of promise. But all this severing of old ties, all this hazardous venture into the unknown, was without hope of a comfortable home at their journey's end until they should have cleared the land (that first must be selected and purchased), hewn the logs, and built the cabin that would be their first home in this sparsely settled neighborhood.

We wonder how many Conestogas were in this wagon train, we wish anew that someone had left us the story of the trek. Since the advent of the Conestoga wagon there were plenty of horses in the country, - the immense trains of pack horses had been replaced with wagons, - and yet no doubt there would be some teams of plodding, sturdy oxen able to negotiate stretches of the road almost impassable to the heavy farm horses. It is interesting to speculate on the route they followed, to trace out the roads then available, to envision the dangers of the fords, and to picture to one's self the camping spots along the road where they would stop for the night or maybe for days at a time. Let us in fancy follow them along the road toward Harrisburg, that town having been founded but five years before; the main roads up the Susquehanna valley lying along its east bank, it would be necessary to cross the great river by ferry, probably swimming the cattle and horses. (The bridge across the Susquehanna at Harrisburg was not built until a quarter of a century later.) No doubt their minds lingered over tales of the troublous days of the French and Indian War and the part played by the Paxton boys in the stirring events of those times, of the danger endured by their grandparents in this very territory. Scarcely more than a decade before, the entire valley had been the scene of the panic of the "Great Runaway", which we learn extended as far down the river as Paxtang. On up the beautiful Susquehanna they treked, the road probably the forerunner of the wonderful Susquehanna Trail as we know it today, now on a level with the river, now high above it. No doubt this mighty river was even more beautiful at that time than it is today, since its flow is so greatly depleted. Where the North Branch joins the West Branch to form the Main Susquehanna, lay the town of Sunbury, since before the Revolution the county seat of Northumberland County and the most important town in the entire valley. Sunbury was the site of old Fort Augusta,

built by the province in 1758 to protect the frontier from incursions of French and Indians, and during the Revolution serving the same purpose - the defense against the Indian allies of the English. Perhaps our traveller's stopped to inspect the old fort and its magazine, built underground of brick brought from England and laboriously carried this great distance up the river. Already there were some important houses built there, perhaps there was still standing the house built for Shickellemy by Weiser under orders of the Proprietories. As we pass the monument erected there, overlooking the river, to the good Indian, Shickellemy, we can in fancy see this beautifully situated town, commanding all three rivers, sobered no doubt by the awful scenes of the Revolution, now in 1790, just waking up to the possibilities of its fine situation and the full appreciation of the blessings of peace.

On the opposite shore of the North Branch lay the town of Northumberland, even so early as 1790 the home of several outstanding people, some of them English refugees, among whom we find the great chemist, Dr. Priestly, the discoverer of oxygen.

Past the home of the great Captain Brady, the hero of the frontiersman who had been killed by Indian treachery, member of a family of great Indian fighters and scouts, whose exploits will never be forgotten.

On across the Chillisquaque which flows into the Susquehanna from the northeast. We wonder did this party of travellers stop for refreshment at the Inn here which had for many years offered rest and comfort for weary travellers. Little did Joseph and Mary Shirk dream that ere another five years should have passed away, she would become the wife of the man who had established this inn which had been, during the Revolu-

tion, the rendezvous of many high officers and the meeting place of the Committee of Safety for Northumberland of which the proprietor, Richard Malone, was a member.

We presume, lacking definite knowledge, that he, with his family, had been swept along with that great tide of refugees in the "Great Runaway", fleeing for their lives to the forts below, when the Indians rose in a concerted onslaught on the outlying settlements of the entire upper valley (Susquehanna). One of the causes that makes difficult the solution of early family historical problems of this neighborhood, is due to the fact that at the time of the "Great Runaway" the early township records were hurriedly carried down the river for safety and lost in transit. Perhaps Richard Malone never came back to the old location, for we find him listed as one of the early settlers of the Bald Eagle Valley, owning land there as early as 1785. History tells us that after this great wholesale flight of the settlers, that many of them never returned to their old locations, perhaps because of the gruesome memories of the awful devastation by fire and murder; of those that did return, many found their property, where it had miraculously escaped destruction at the hands of the red fiends, now occupied by squatters who refused to vacate. In many cases it never was recovered by the rightful owner, cases of this sort appearing in the courts well into the next century.

But we follow our little cavalcade, with its heavy wagons, drawn by weary farm horses and teams of oxen, plodding along on what in those days passed as a good road. On past Warriors Run with its memories of awful massacre and the sacrifice of brave lives, with a thought perhaps for the little fort at Montgomery's, a few miles to the east, where Joseph's cousins and Mary's brothers had no doubt done their part in the hasty construction of the stone building which served as

their defense in that awful attack of the Indians, and which today stands an enduring monument to the skill and resourcefulness of "Captain Rice's Germans."

On up the river, to where Fort Muncy had also felt the ferocity of the red-man; on past Bald Eagle Mountain which here looms up on the west, and at the foot of which the Susquehanna turns in a huge hair-pin curve to the south; past the place where the brave Covenhoven had put the torch to the home of Queen Esther, that half-breed Indian with the heart of a fiend. On even further toward the setting sun, across the Lycoming where stood the village that has grown into the bustling city of Williamsport; then on still further, across Pine Creek - the "Tiadachton" of the Indians, - at whose mouth where it flows into the Susquehanna, was already growing the town of Jersey Shore. Here had settled long since a group of people whose "Fair-Play" scheme of government and Declaration of Independence anticipated the action of the Provincial Congress. Then perhaps even further up the Susquehanna valley until they came to that great and beautiful creek, the Bald Eagle, rivaling in size, where it joins it, the Susquehanna itself.

Somewhere in this sparsely settled country, Joseph and Mary, little John and smaller Jacob, and quite probably the young Uncle David also, decided to make a new home.

It is possible that the younger Frederick Leathers preceded the others of this group of York county prospectors, for we learn that he and his wife - who was Barbara Shirk, Joseph's eldest sister - sold farm land to Jacob and John Shirk (her brothers) in 1794 and 1796 from a tract which he had bought in 1791. This land lay further up the Bald Eagle than the town of Milesburg and lay along our present day Lake-and-Sea Highway.

Joseph Shirk was also taxed with "unseated land" in the valley as early as 1791, but we cannot learn that he ever lived on it or developed it. Jacob Leathers and his wife Catherine Shirk, located in the lower part of the valley at the mouth of Bullit's Run, and Richard Malone was living nearby at the time. Later, however, Malone moved to the south side of the creek and nearer the town of Milesburg. He was one of the heaviest landholders in the neighborhood and was an outstanding man of the community. His married sons Leslie and Francis, and his daughter, Mrs. Armstrong, also lived nearby.

The land in this valley had been covered by the purchase from the Indians by the Proprietaries in 1768, and much of it had been surveyed in 1769 following the application for land grants in the newly acquired territory, by a group of officers who had served in the recent troubles with the French and Indians. The authorities acceded to this request as it was thought wise to encourage this type of settler on the frontier where they would, in all probability, serve as a deterrent to further uprisings of the redman, and be a protection to the settlers in this outland region. But it is possible that the only one of the officers so favored, who really settled on land so acquired, was Captain DeHaas. Instead, it all changed hands in a short time and by 1790 little of it was held by the original owners.

But the reason for Joseph Shirk's selection of a home-site north of the Susquehanna we are unable to explain. We can but hope that future search may disclose the exact spot. We do know, however, that he was a taxpayer in Pine Creek township in 1793. We can only hope that this young man whose life so far must have been unusually strenuous and filled with care, felt happy in the new home and that their hearts were light with hopes of future success in such a venture. True,

they should feel reasonably safe from Indians, the war was long over, peace reigned between the races, and good Indians living in the neighborhood were no doubt better than no neighbors at all, but we may imagine the watchful care ever necessary that the dreadful thing that had happened to Joseph's little sister (?) should not be repeated in their family. No doubt those were days of hard work, long, busy days; there were fields to be cleared, probably timber to be cut and a cabin to be built before winter should set in. There would be some sort of crops to be gathered in, trips to the mill, - oh, those long trips to mill! Perhaps recollection of these experiences may have decided young brother David to become a miller, mills were needed in the valley and later we find him so occupied and he was so taxed until 1850.

Another son was born in 1793. They called him Joseph, not so much in honor of his father as for that revered immigrant great-grandfather who was so wise and able, and who so capably provided for his children.

We cannot forbear wondering whether there was not another child in this family, possibly a girl, who would have been born between Jacob born 1789 and Joseph, born 1793. Did this family expect to go on up the Bald Eagle with the rest of the family, and did this young mother, like Mary of old, determine the stopping place in their journey, and did a little stranger arrive as they reached the edge of the land of promise, and did what was intended to be but a temporary stopping place in their journey become the site of their future home?

In the late fall of 1794 a great sorrow overwhelmed the young household - the father died. How or why we know not, many sudden deaths occurred among the back-woods folk. Thirty years later Joseph's younger brother, John, was killed at a barn-raising on his own

farm. Dangers which we have never known surrounded the settlers, and the primitive manner of living made recovery rare in grave accident cases.

Nor do we know where Mary buried Joseph; did she carry his body long miles up the valley to her father's or brother's home or did he find his last resting-place in the little burial ground on Dr. Davidson's farm near Pine Creek, which had been dedicated to such purpose that same year? Perhaps even at this early date the beautifully situated burial plot at Milesburg had been set aside. Here, local tradition tells us, under the huge twin oak tree, sleep the early Shirks. The stones, all marks gone, now serve only to indicate the location of graves of those long since passed away.

We like to think that David was with them during that unhappy time, and that the young wife and her children were not wholly alone in that wilderness in their grief. Reverently we pause to think of this young life that had known so much responsibility, sorrow and hard work in the short span of twenty-eight years.

The only record of his death is found in the application for letters of administration on his estate, by his brother, Jacob Shirk, and Mary's brother, Frederick Leathers (Mifflin county files). Then silence, - absolutely nothing more until ten years later, when these two men were haled to court "to show cause why an administration had not been returned." What had happened? We can but surmise that Mary had gathered up her little brood and gone to live with her father, and it may have been possible that during her absence their claim may have been jumped by conscienceless squatters, or can it be possible that David "acquired" possession, and with brotherly confidence and primitive reasoning, had thought it unnecessary to record his deed? Surely Joseph was not a

poor man, he had managed to secure possession of the entire Paradise farm before he left York County, and must have sold it when leaving, though no deed of this sale has been found. But at the time that the court had demanded a statement of administration (in 1805), there was nothing left to administer except a few bits of clothing, traps, and a gun, totaling at vendue about fifteen pounds - seventy dollars:

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Note-

Since writing the above it has been learned that there was indeed another child in this family, a daughter Elizabeth, born 1791. She married Charles Lucas and they had a son named Morgan M., proof conclusive of her parentage. It was at her home that her brother Jacob died in 1845. See page 30.

CHAPTER V.

One year later we find Mary married to Richard Malone of Milesburg, becoming his third wife. He was much older than she; his eldest child, born in 1755, was at least ten years older than Mary. Evidently it was an economic necessity for her to find a home for her three boys.

In 1796 was born her next child, a son, Frederick Malone, named, of course, for her dearly beloved father who had died a few months before; and three years later, as the new century was dawning, was born another son whom they named Morgan Malone, presumably for the uncle who was married to Richard Malone's sister.

After a very long and successful life, Richard Malone died in 1801, leaving his young wife in very comfortable circumstances and we find his will a model of thoughtful planning and loving care for his family. We presume that Mary (Leathers) (Shirk) Malone raised her three Shirk boys and her two Malone boys in the Malone homestead with the aid of "the black man Hark", willed her by her husband. Years later, when John, the eldest of the Shirk boys, and the subject of this sketch, named his son "Morgan Malone Shirk", it no doubt was with happy memories of the comfortable home and his baby half-brother. To this fortunate circumstance are we indebted for all we know of our early Shirk ancestors. To the question of the writer when she was a little girl, "What was the M for in Grandfather's name", her mother replied, "For Malone, his Grandmother's name was Malone". In this way we were able to identify John Shirk's mother, and through her his father and his forbears. Quite an astonishing circumstance for there was nothing whatever in the way of family records or cemetery or church data to assist us!

Richard Malone was a very able man. He had considerable culture for his time as is shown by the careful, precise manner in which he entered

the records of the births of his children in his family Bible. A certified copy of these birth records was found attached to his will recorded at All-County. The descendants of the sons of Joseph Shirk owe a debt of gratitude to this man Malone whose home had been a haven of refuge for these fatherless boys and whose provision for their mother had smoothed her latter days.

Through her inheritance from his estate she was able to financially assist her Shirk boys to become established in business, for we find that in 1831 Jacob sold land to his youngest half-brother, Morgan Malone, which had been purchased by Mary Malone for John and Jacob Shirk, and that when John left Centre county, he sold his share of it to Jacob, and finally the transfer first noted. We regret to note that one year later this step-brother met an untimely death in the Moshannon River, leaving a wife and family. Frederick Malone, the other half-brother, died in 1868 and is buried in Milesburg cemetery.

When Joseph, the youngest of the Shirk boys, became of age in 1814, his mother set him up in the tannery business; Joseph with Robert Lipton as his partner, bought property along the creek on which they operated the first tannery in the valley; on the death of Lipton the business was conducted in the name of Joseph Shirk until 1868, his son Joseph having followed his father's trade, carried on the same business as late as 1883.

Joseph, the tanner, youngest child of Joseph Shirk and Mary (Leathers) Shirk, was born January 4, 1793, and died after reaching the ripe old age of 83, on January 16, 1876. His first wife was Elizabeth White, his second wife, Marie Evans. He was the father of twelve children, among whom were Jacob, born 1818, died 1876; Joseph L.; Robert L.; born 1836, died 1889; and Constance, born 1837, died 1866.

Jacob, son of the tanner, married Rebecca Fulton and was the father of a large family. His sons were Joseph, Jacob, George, James, Alexander and Samuel. The last three served in the Civil War. Samuel, born 1848, married Mary Rearrick and they raised a large family, most of whom live in Centre county. James Shirk, one of his sons, lives in Pittsburgh, and Clarence Shirk of Pleasant Gap is a grandson. Mr. Shirk lives with his daughter at Axman, near Bellefonte.

Much effort has been made to learn what had become of Jacob, the second son of Joseph and Mary Shirk, but the only record found concerning him is contained in a newspaper item of the day as follows:

"On Saturday, the 5th of July, 1845, Jacob Shirk died at the home of Charles Lucas in Boggs township, aged 55 years."

We believe he was a bachelor and that he moved from the neighborhood after selling his property near Curtin, to his half-brother Morgan Malone, and perhaps thereafter made his home with his sister, Mrs. Charles Lucas.

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From the painting by POWELL

CHAPTER VI.

For years preceding the War of 1812 there had been increasing unrest over the attitude of Great Britain towards the young republic, and finally when the neutral rights of the United States had been violated by the impressment of our seamen by British ships, the public mind became so inflamed that Congress was forced by weight of public opinion, to declare war against Great Britain, in June 1812.

The events of the war up to the early part of 1813 had been particularly disastrous and the settlers of the frontier were left without defense from the fiendish warfare of the Indian allies of the British. Too well they knew to what awful ends these outlying settlements might come if the enemy and his devilish allies were not speedily checked.

We can imagine the wave of determination and patriotic enthusiasm that swept over the country, particularly those parts lying along the seaboard and the states bordering the Great Lakes where Great Britain had a fleet of formidable size preying on shipping and the settlements along the lake shore, - and the volunteers who flocked to the enlistment centers; sons and grandsons of men who had survived the horrors of Indian warfare incident to the Revolution, - stalwart, robust mountaineers, lumbermen, and rivermen, inured to hardships such as the campaign ahead threatened.

Among the men who thus answered the call of his country was our ancestor and the subject of this sketch, John Shirk. We learn that he enlisted at Bellefonte, May 5, 1813, in the 147th Regiment, No. 63 in "Musket and Bayonet", Capt. George Record's Company, Col. Reese Hill's Brigade, 11th Division from Centre County, Penna. Militia.

At this time John Shirk was 26 years old and unmarried, but we can vision the look of

pride in the eyes of the young Irish girl, Martha Ann Means, whose family had come quite recently from Ireland and settled in this same Milesburg neighborhood, probably near neighbors to the Shirks and Malones, when John Shirk, her sweetheart, marched off to Erie with his regiment, for the historian tells us that on the appeal of Capt. Oliver Hazard Perry to the War Department for "men and yet more men" to assist him in his valiant efforts to build, equip and man the fleet which he had been ordered to assemble on Lake Erie to engage the ever-threatening fleet of the British, - that the ENTIRE COMPANY to a man, (Capt. Record's) volunteered for this service! That they were all young, unmarried men we know, since the records show that Perry refused one Askeys for this service because he was a married man.

What a joy these men must have been to the young commander who had complained to the Department of the poor class of men, "blacks and mere boys" who had previously been detailed for duty at Erie. These were sturdy fellows, sons of pioneers who had wrested from the wilderness the farms where their sons had grown to manhood and who themselves had made unbelievable sacrifice in the cause of liberty during the first war with the mother country.

Perry used these men with other Pennsylvania Militia, as guards, builders, sailors, marines, and in every conceivable way that would assist in this intensive program of ship building.

John Shirk was but following the example of his grandfather and his father, the former served in the Revolution (Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series, Vol. 2, Page 527) and the latter in the Post Revolutionary Militia in York County in 1789.

It is a matter of official record that John Shirk was one of the medalists of the famous Battle of Lake Erie. He had proven of what stuff he was made by his resourcefulness

in extinguishing a fire in the magazine of the flagship. That his commander recognized his courage is proven by the fact that he was one of the four seamen chosen by Perry to row him to the Niagara when he decided to abandon his original flagship, the Lawrence, and carry his flag aboard the Niagara, which up until this time had escaped the fury of attack which had so badly crippled the Lawrence. Lossing tells us that the Lawrence had 85 out of her 105 men either killed or wounded.

Of the two great paintings of this subject, the passing of the Commodore from the Lawrence to the Niagara, the one painted by Jarvis, is probably authentic as to uniforms, since the portrait of Perry in it was painted from life and this brave young officer died in 1813. The sailors' uniforms in this picture are the same as in the picture of the "Surrender aboard the crippled Lawrence", high hats and striped jackets.

The other great picture of the passage to the other ship was painted by Powell. The original of this hangs in the Ohio State Capitol and a large replica in the National Capitol at Washington was painted as late as 1873. The men in the boat are not portraits, a history of the painting gives the names of the models used. The portrait of Perry is after Jarvis and highly idealized. The uniforms are not the type worn at the time. It was the varnished, bucket-shaped hat that John Shirk used to carry water at the time of the fire in the magazine, and it was his striped, jersey-like jacket that he used to wrap around his fist to plug a shot-hole in the small boat!

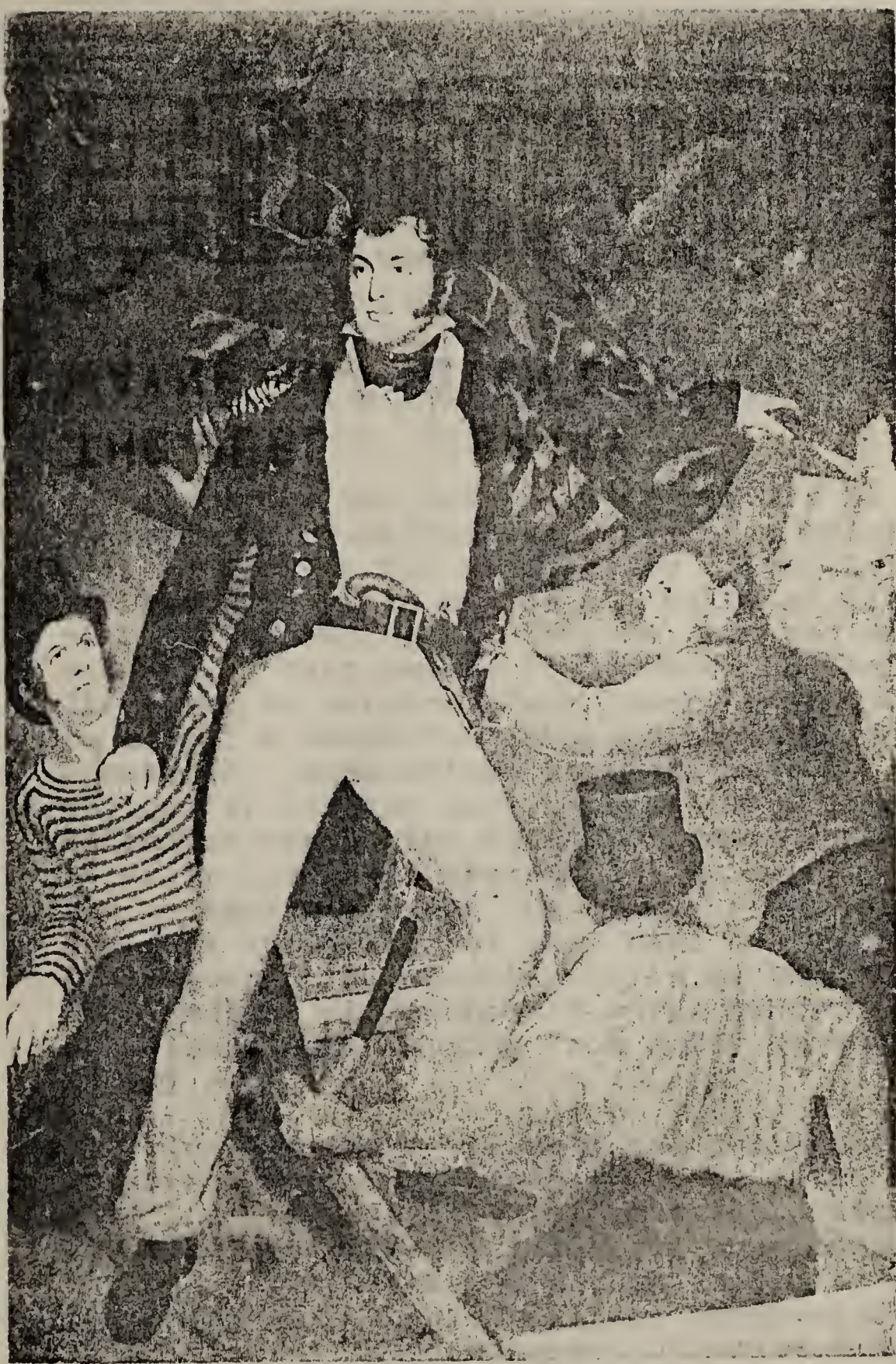
John Shirk was rated as a landsman, having had, of course, no previous experience on board ship. As a member of the crew he shared in the distribution of the prize-money (value of the enemy's ships), - and we learn that his voucher for \$214.39 was dated November 12, 1814.

The record of his naval service is found in Vol. I, Class VI, American State Papers, Naval Affairs, page 569.

Pennsylvania was so proud of the part that her militiamen had played in the victory on Lake Erie that the State Legislature conferred medals on a number of her sons who had shown conspicuous bravery in the engagement. We are happy to show a copy of the citation (or letter that accompanied the medal) as well as a picture of the medal granted to our honored forbear on that occasion. The citation is owned by Mr. Russell Bell of West Middlesex, great-grandson of John Shirk through his daughter Mary. The medal rightfully became the property of his son Oliver Perry on the death of his father, and it is now in the care of one of his descendants.

Much to be envied were those grandchildren of the old hero (eleven of whom are still living in 1931) who, sitting on grandfather's knee, with his much-prized medal in their hands, heard from his own lips the story of that eventful day and the part he had played in it, the whole story o'erflowing with devotion for his beloved commander and admiration for his young brother "who was a brave lad, he didn't cry", the latter intended as an example of courage to the young ears so intent on the story. This young ensign, then but sixteen, became the Commodore Perry who was in command of the fleet that negotiated the ports-treaty with Japan in 1852, and it is of interest to learn that on his staff was the young officer, James Shirk, then but recently graduated from Annapolis, and who later distinguished himself at the siege of Vicksburg and whose memory was honored by the naming of the U.S.S. Destroyer Shirk during the World War. This naval officer was probably a descendant of the same immigrant ancestor as are the descendants of John Shirk.

It would be very interesting to know who was the fourth man that Perry chose to row him to the Niagara. We know that Thomas Penny who



From the painting by JARVIS

died in the Naval Asylum in Philadelphia in 1863, aged 81, was one of them; and that Jacob Toole of Bucks County was another, that our ancestor was the third man, but who was the fourth? In the boat was also a steersman, - an experienced sailor, - Perry's young brother Matthew, commissioned an ensign (!) and Perry's personal servant, the black man Hannibal.

On the morning of September 12, 1813, the ceremony of burying the dead of the fleet took place. On the shore of South Bass Island the officers were buried, and through the fine courtesy of Perry, the officers of the British fleet, killed in the engagement, were buried at the same time and place with full military honors.

Lossing, the historian of the War of 1812, tells us quite enthusiastically of a celebration in 1860 on the anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie, when men of all walks of life with the common boast that they had served their country on that memorable occasion, gathered in Cleveland to celebrate anew Perry's victory and to unveil a beautiful monument to their beloved commander. Much effort has been made to learn whether or not our ancestor was among those who helped celebrate the historic occasion. We wish he might have been present and to have received the recognition shown the old veterans on that day. He would at that time have been seventy-three years old. Lossing tells us that there were present approximately three hundred veterans, their ages ranging from fifty-seven to ninety.

In 1913 there was held the Centennial celebration of Perry's victory, at which time the fine monument at Put-In-Bay was dedicated. The remains of both English and Americans killed in the battle were transferred to a crypt in the foundation of this huge memorial commemorating one hundred years of peace with Great Britain as well as memorializing those who participated in the battle. The names of those who gave their lives are carved in enduring stone in the monument and the names of

those who survived the engagement are done on huge bronze tablets. Among the latter we are proud to find the name of our ancestor, John Shirk. We are proud also to be able to say that his name appears on the War Memorial at Bellefonte, where he had enlisted.

The writer offers no apology for having given so much space to the Battle of Lake Erie in this little history of our ancestor and veteran of that battle, as she feels that John Shirk would be proud to have his descendants know the particulars of what was to him, no doubt, the outstanding event of his life. Nor should we, descendants of an honest, brave, enlisted man, ever fail to do his memory honor.

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Harrisburg, November 19, 1819.

Sir,

In compliance with the directions of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, I have the pleasure of conveying to you the thanks of the government, for the noble and gallant manner in which you volunteered in board the American squadron on Lake Erie, under the command of the illustrious Perry, and also of presenting to you a Silver Medal, of the workmanship, in compliment of your patriotism and bravery in the celebrated victory over a superior British force, on the 10th September, 1813. And I take this occasion to add the testimony of my sincere accordance with the patriotic and grateful sentiments of the Legislature towards you, as one of the citizens of Pennsylvania, who distinguished themselves in that memorable conflict.

I am, Sir,

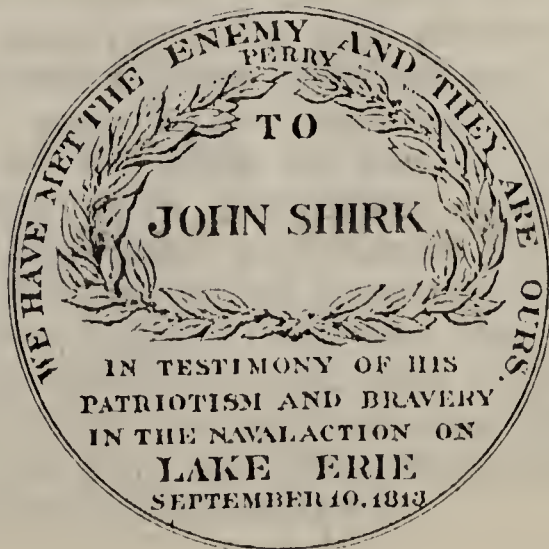
With great respect,

Yours,

John Shirk
of the County of
Centre



Obverse.



Reverse.

CHAPTER VII.

No doubt through the dangers and hard work of that summer at Erie, John Shirk's memory often turned to the peaceful valley of the Bald Eagle Creek and a certain little Irish girl who was eagerly looking for his return.

The following spring "John Sherick and Martha Ann Maynes" were married, the exact date being April 9, 1814. She was ten years his junior, having been born in 1797. The above spelling of the names is as given in the family Bible. His name appears in both forms in the papers incident to his enlistment, discharge, etc. He, however, retained the earlier spelling in the family Bible until the birth of his second son in 1819.

They lived in Bald Eagle Valley, near Milesburg, until about 1821 when they moved to Erie. Martha's father, Archibald Means, had died about the time of her marriage in 1814, and when John Shirk and his wife moved to Erie, Grandmother Means moved with them, for about that same time she disposed of her property in the Valley, - as did her son-in-law, John Shirk, and Bald Eagle Valley knew them no more.

(No doubt more definite information concerning the earlier members of this family would be found if the Milesburg Cemetery which is in a deplorable condition from neglect, could be cleared of undergrowth and graded, for doubtless many stones have fallen and in the course of a few years have been entirely overgrown with sod and so lost to our sight. Is it too much to hope that ere many years there may grow up a stronger sentiment for the preservation of any information concerning those earlier folk who helped lay the foundation of our stable government and who themselves, laboring under great handicaps, laid the foundation of families who are valuable members of our American citizenry?)

But this family did not long remain in Erie, we find they moved to Shenango township, Mercer county, in 1824. This neighborhood is now in Pulaski township, Lawrence county. Grandmother Means continued to live in Erie, with her daughter, Rebecca, the wife of Augustus Graham. She died there although we have failed to learn her burial place.

About 1841, the John Shirk family moved to the far eastern part of Mercer county, in French Creek township. The locality was known as Deer Creek Post Office, but in 1852 the name was changed to Milledgeville. A letter written by Morgan M. Shirk, the author's grandfather, to his father, in 1843, is addressed Deer Creek, Mercer county.

The deed for this farm although dated 1844 was not recorded until 1853. The land title is based on a soldier's grant of 1807. A large part of Mercer county was surveyed for "bounty lands", that is, grants to soldiers for services in the Revolution and to cover depreciation in money value in their pay. This tract of 200 acres was so deeded to George Stall, by him deeded to John Pearson and wife and by the latter to Shirk. The old homestead is said to have been the second house built in this locality and no doubt its location was determined by the very fine spring which still flows generously near what was the kitchen door of the farm house.

One-half of the farm was sold to the son Perry in 1850. The remainder, 105 acres, was sold after the death of the old couple to Mr. Chattey. It subsequently was owned by Mr. McElroy who rebuilt the old barn which stands in good condition and in constant use. The old homestead that had housed so many happy children and grandchildren and which had been the "Home, Sweet Home" of the old couple for nearly thirty years before they passed on to their eternal home, has fallen into decay and several years ago collapsed. Probably many

of its heavy hand-wrought timbers had gone into the rehabilitation of the barn. It is now naught but a pile of timbers and remains of the roof, but it served to recall happy childhood memories to many who attended the family reunion at the site on the day of the grave-marking ceremony mentioned in the first chapter of this story.

The entire farm is now owned by Mr. Roy Heltzell, and is, by the intelligent farming of its owner, one of the finest farms in the township. Perry Shirk built a home on the part of the farm purchased by him, and this house, in fine condition, is the very attractive home of Mr. and Mrs. Heltzell. A fine row of maples, planted by John Shirk after he was seventy years of age, borders the road for some distance.

Yet we are inclined to believe that John Shirk was not raised a farmer. Every family in those days produced its own food and clothing and farmed sufficiently to be independent in these matters. But there is in our minds the thought that he was in some way connected with the production of iron, when in Bald Eagle Valley, in Erie, and in Shenango. Although we have found no record of it, we believe that when his mother purchased the land for her sons John and Jacob, she was setting them up in some form of business pertaining to iron handling as she did in establishing her son Joseph in the tannery business. About the time that John Shirk moved to Erie that locality was forging ahead as an iron producing territory, and it is a coincidence that at Waterford, sixteen miles from Erie, was established in 1830, a foundry which later became a stove works; the founder of this business was David Shirk, the father of the naval officer mentioned earlier in our story.

Then we note that John Shirk moved from Erie to Shenango Township where were developing those huge iron mills for which the territory is still famous.

Archibald Means with his family was among that group of five hundred settlers from Ireland about 1800, that were brought over by the resident agent of Mr. Poultney who was a large land-holder in the Upper Susquehanna and Bald Eagle Valleys, and who was thus enabled to market his lands to newcomers, locating there. These people, of course, could not be expected to entertain the same feeling toward the young Republic as did the descendants of Revolutionary heroes, but they did their part nobly in the second war with England and many young Irishmen of this neighborhood, fired with love for their newly adopted country, served with as much enthusiasm as did these sons of Revolutionary sires.

The Means family were Presbyterians, good Calvinistic stock that had been driven by religious persecution from Scotland to Ireland and they were, as one writer puts it, "literally men without a country". Of such forebears are we the witnesses of their faith.

To John Shirk and Martha Ann (Means) Shirk were born twelve children, to wit: Andrew Jackson, born 1815; Mary, born 1817; Morgan Malone, born 1819; Oliver Perry, born 1821; Amelia, born 1823; Margery, born 1825; Walter, born 1827; Jane, born 1829; Joseph, born 1831; Lafayette, born 1833; Margaret Ellen, born in 1835, and who died in infancy; and John A., born 1838.

To not many couples has it been given to raise to maturity eleven children; honest, up-standing men, and daughters saintly, efficient, patient and with a never-failing kindness to all who were privileged to come in contact with them.

The family history of each of the children will be found on the following pages, though we regret that in some cases, due to lack of response to our repeated queries, the record is not complete.

We note with pride the deep patriotic sentiment that was shown by the naming of four of the sons for the country's military heroes. The writer has been much interested in tracing the origin of the given names all through the family, as the paucity of, and in some cases the absolute lack of family records, has made it impossible to identify the connection except through the similarity of given names. This is not a usual feature of a family history but the writer hopes she may be pardoned for indulging in what has become to her almost a hobby, - the origin and persistence of given names in a family.

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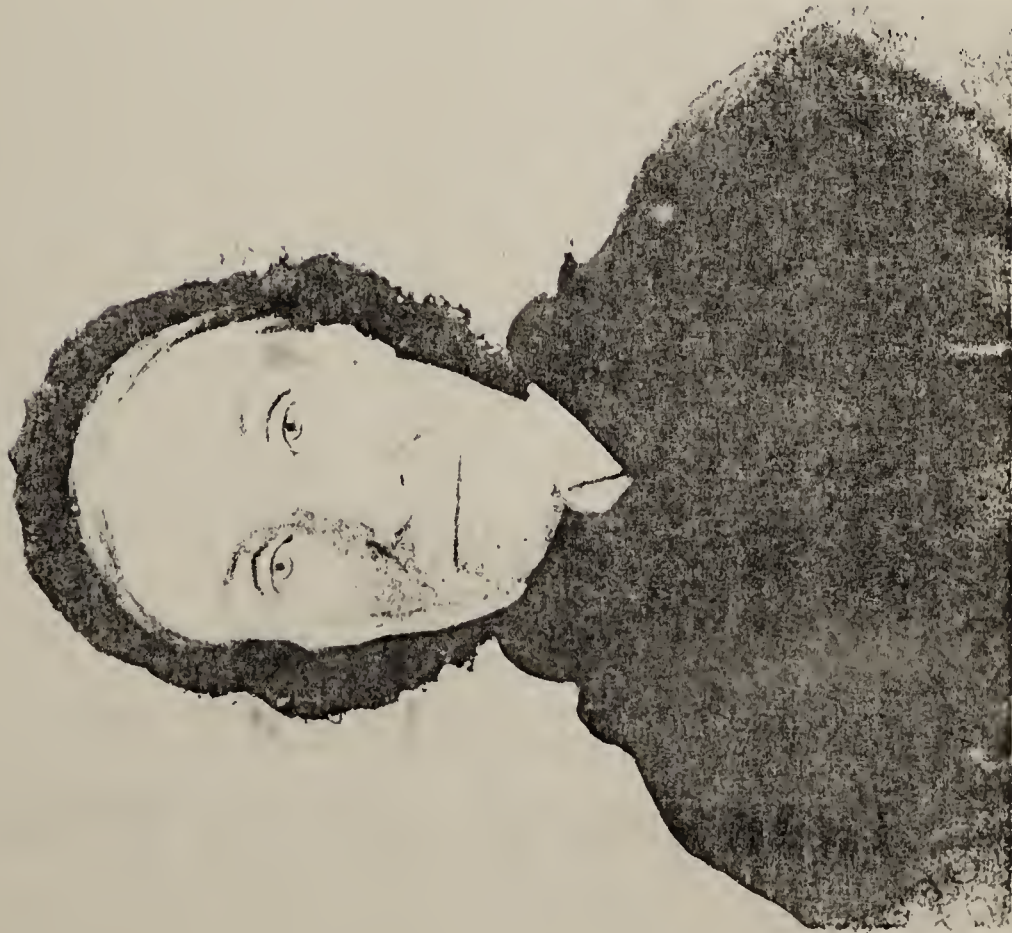
CHAPTER VIII

A few weeks before the birth of the first child of John Shirk and Martha Ann(Means)Shirk the City of New Orleans had been taken by Gen. Andrew Jackson, and the wave of patriotic enthusiasm that swept the country on the announcement of peace February 17th, had probably only reached Centre County about this time. We are proud to note that he named his first-born child, born February 28, 1815, Andrew Jackson Shirk.

When twenty-five years old, Andrew Jackson Shirk married Harriet N. May, who was born January 28, 1823. Both were raised in Mercer County where his family had lived since he was eight years old. In the fall of 1865 they moved to Wood County, Ohio, hoping that a complete change of scene would benefit Mrs. Shirk's health, so sorely shattered by the tragic death of their eldest son in the Civil War.

Here they both died and are buried, the father's death occurring December 26, 1887 in his seventy-third year, and the mother surviving him until September 28, 1900, in her seventy-eighth year. They were the parents of ten children, but four of whom survived their parents.

1. Morgan Bierce Shirk, the first child, born March 16, 1841, died September 9, 1864. He was named for his father's brother Morgan and for a neighbor, Bierce. He enlisted in the Civil War, and served in the 144th Penna. Infantry; was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg and was furloughed home to recuperate. He returned to his outfit and participated in the battle of the Wilderness where he was captured and died in Andersonville Prison. His system, weakened by his wounds, could not survive the privations of prison life. He confided his Bible and diary to his boyhood chum Charley Bird who was captured at the same time but who survived the prison ordeal and carried these precious mementoes home to his bereaved family.



MARTHA ANN (MEANS) SHIRK 1797-1869



John Shirk 1787-1867

Portrait of the Hon. J. B. Clark, Governor



Portrait of the Hon. J. B. Clark, Governor



2. Martha, the second child of this family, was born August 19, 1842 and died Sept. 19, 1881. She was honored with her grandmother's name. She married A. B. Frankfather and was the mother of four sons, - Orren Breeze, Andrew J., Earl, and Guy.

Orren Breeze Frankfather of Tiffin, Ohio, is unmarried.

Andrew J. Frankfather is survived by his widow, Orrie, and by his children, Jesse N., (wife Martha), of Toledo; Ernest G. (wife Amanda M.), of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and daughter Dora of Flint, Michigan.

Earl Frankfather of Lake Lelanau, Michigan, is survived by his wife Cecelia and two children, Ambrose and Martha.

Guy Frankfather and his wife, Cora E., live at St. Marys, Ohio.

3. John Shirk, the third child of A. J. and Harriet M. Shirk, was born July 8, 1843, and died January 8, 1845; this little lad who bore his grandfather's name was buried in Middlesex Cemetery, Mercer County.

4. Lorinda J., the fourth child, was born July 5, 1845. She married J. J. Baird of Bairdstown, Ohio, and had children, Oleana, Eddie, Maggie, Don G., and Floyd.

Maggie Baird married Mr. Hartman of her home town and there they still reside.

Don G. Baird and wife, Lida E. Baird live at Mounds, Oklahoma. They are the proud custodians of the old family Bible and thoughtfully sent it East for the family reunion held September 13, 1930. See illustration,

5. Adeline, the third daughter of the family, was born September 29, 1846. She married

L. Baird but died childless in her twenty-second year, - May 16, 1868. Recently there came into our possession a manuscript poem, a song, written by her and dedicated "to the brave boys of '61", no doubt with fond thoughts of the dear brother then at the front. Sad that so talented a life should go out so early.

6. Eliza, the next daughter, died in the flush of young womanhood, being born March 7, 1851, and dying in her nineteenth year, May 26, 1869.

7. Lois Shirk, the fifth daughter, was born March 23, 1854, married J. W. Bell, son of William and Mary (Shirk) Bell, and had two children, Zenda and Max. She survived her husband, living beyond the allotted three score and ten, until March 18, 1927. This family lived in Minnesota.

8. Mary, named for her father's eldest sister, was the sixth daughter and eighth child in this family. She was born April 24, 1857, and died April 24, 1926. She married J. W. Simon, of Bloomdale, Ohio, and was the mother of two children, Herman and Miriam, both married and living in their native town. Mr. Simon is in the drug business; his sister married C. M. Good and they are the parents of one son.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Herman Simon we are able to show the family records as they appear in the old Bible of John and Martha Ann Shirk.

9. Ellen, the youngest daughter of A. J. and Harriet May Shirk, was born May 10, 1859 and married R. A. Emerson. They had a large family, and she survived her husband, living until July 19, 1928. Their home was in Pullman, Washington. Their children are Jay M., Edna, Max, Lois, Mary, Byron, Nellie, Lenore, Tim and Darcy.

ELLEN, youngest child of Andrew J. and Harriet May Shirk married Rufus A. Emerson and lived in Bloomdale, Ohio until 1906. Had 12 children, all born there.

1. Jay May Emerson, 1879 - 19
married Amelia Gerding, lives Pullman, Wash.
children, 1. Frances Emerson

2. Richard Leonard

3. Twin

2. Edna May Emerson, 1881 - 19
married Arthur Hosler, lives Findley, Ohio.

children - 1. Max Arthur

2. Myrth Edna

3. John

4. Richard

5. Rose Ellen

6. Thomas

3. Max Charles Emerson, 1884 - 1887

4. Lois Bell Emerson, 1886 - 19

married Emery Stults, lives Ft. Wayne, Ind.

children 1. Catherine Stults,

married Bland
children

2. Darcy Jane Stults
married Farrar
children

3. Barbara Stults
married Phelps

5. Mary Harriet Emerson 1888 - 1897

6. Roland Rufus Emerson, 1890 - 19

married Florence De Cota, Medford, Oregon.

children - Tana Kay Emerson.

Served World War, Tenth Field Artillery, 3rd Div.
Overseas 18 mos., 6 with Army of Occupation.

7. Robert Byron Emerson, 1892 - 1894
8. Martha Anne Emerson, 1894 - 1894
9. Nelle Audrey Emerson, 1896 - 19
married Lester Judd, Grandview, Washington.
children- Darcy Louise Judd
10. Lenore Jane Emerson, 1896 -
married Earl Johnson, Oakdale, Washington.
children - Wynne Elton Johnson
Carolyn Jane
Barbara Anne
11. Timothy Lawrence Emerson, 1900 - 1918
Lost his life in Snake river trying to save
a young friend, also lost.
12. Darcy Ellen Emerson, 1903 - 19
married Allan H. Ellingson, Tacoma, Washington.
children - Donald Herbert Ellingson,
Jack Antone Ellingson.
-

10. Charles Bird Shirk, the youngest child of the family, was born after they moved to the new home in Woods County, Ohio, his birth-date being April 7, 1867. He was named for the chum of his ill-fated brother, Charles Bird. He married Rena Keefer and they are the parents of three children, Nieta, Clarence C. and Jay. The son Clarence, following the family tradition, enlisted during the World War and served in Machine Gun Co., 334th Infantry, 84th Division. He was desperately ill of flu in France and was in hospital at the time of the Armistice. No doubt this illness was a grave factor in his death after a very short illness in the spring of 1931. He left a wife and three children, and he is the first of the happy group at the old homestead in September 1930 to be called hence.

This closes the Andrew Jackson family.

CHAPTER IX

The second child of John and Martha Ann (Means) Shirk was their daughter Mary, born May 8, 1817, in Centre County. No doubt the baby's paternal grandmother, now the Widow Malone, acted as sponsor at the christening of her namesake granddaughter.

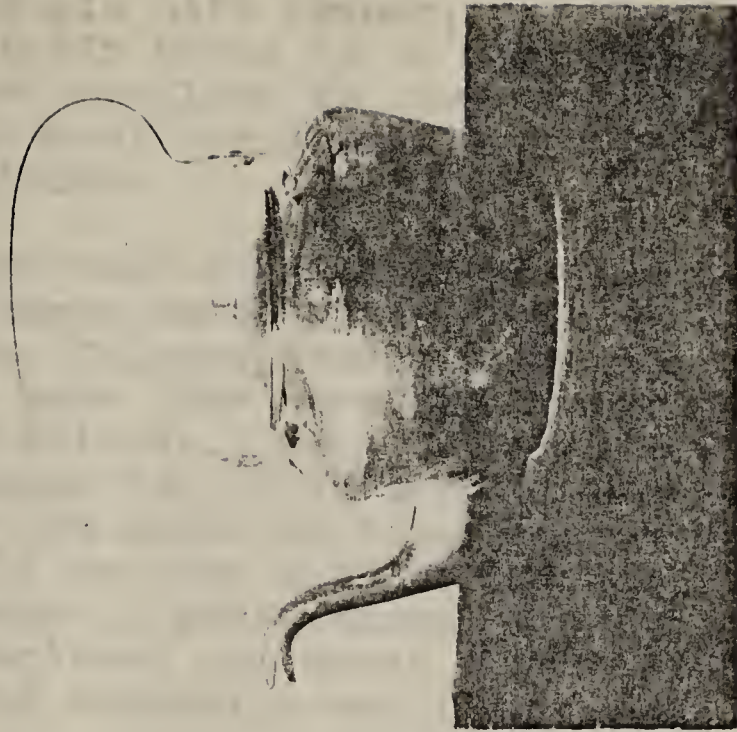
In 1843 she married William Bell, son of a neighbor who was the grandson of William Bell, the first settler in that part of Mercer county who came from Washington county before 1800. The great-grandfather Bell was Thomas; born in Ireland in 1727 and who came to Pennsylvania after his sons were grown. He is believed to have settled first in historic Paxtang - (now in Dauphin county) - and later in Washington county; and with the opening up of the Mercer county lands, to have moved there with his sons. He lived to the ripe old age of 106 years and died in Mahoning county, Ohio.

On the old Bell homestead near West Middlesex, Mercer county, the large family of William and Mary (Shirk) Bell grew to maturity. To few women is given the affection bestowed on "dear Aunt Mary Bell", so beloved by both relatives and friends. She passed to her reward Dec. 22, 1891, having lived a useful and saintly life for seventy-five years. Mr. Bell was born in 1817 and died in 1892.

1. The eldest of the seven children of William and Mary Bell was their daughter Theresa, born in 1844 and who died in 1906. She married William Riblet and raised a large family on their farm near Youngstown, Ohio. Their eldest child, Horatio, his wife Ora Belle, as well as their daughter Pearl who married Clark Mellinger, live at North Lima, Ohio; the second child, Mina, married David Stambaugh and survives her husband, making her home in Youngstown; Buehler Riblet and his wife Clara also live in the home town; Thaddeus Riblet and wife Flora make their home at Miami, Florida;



Coverlet woven by Martha Ann Shirk
for her son Andrew Jackson Shirk



Teakettle used by Martha Ann Shirk
Dated 1838. Owned by Mrs. P. Betts

Ruhana Riblet, who married Grant Titus, Philetus Riblet and his wife Maud, Samuel Riblet, who is survived by his wife Matilda, Fremont Riblet and his wife Hannah, and Charles Riblet, all make their homes in or near Youngstown. We regret our inability to give the names of the large number of grandchildren of William and Theresa Riblet.

2. The second child of William and Mary Bell was named Nancy Ellen, born 1846. She married Dr. Gilmore Robert Stevenson of Hubbard Ohio, and here they were the center of a large circle of friends. Dr. Stevenson was called home November 19, 1917; surviving him were his widow and his three children, and his loss was keenly felt by many devoted patients and a large circle of professional friends. He was a fine gentleman and great physician and his loss to the community was irreparable.

The son (1) David Ralph Stevenson, married Melissa Feidler and lived in Cleveland until his death in 1930. They were the parents of two children, Louise and Harold. Louise Stevenson married William Phillips and had two lovely children, Marilyn, who was accidentally killed by an auto in 1931, and Jack. Harold Stevenson and wife Miriam have two sons, Robert and Richard.

(2) Mary Frances Stevenson, daughter of Dr. and Ellen Stevenson, married Frank Phillips of Springfield, Ohio, in 1899. She was born in 1871 and died in 1926. Her husband survived her but a short while. They had no children.

(3) Winifred Elizabeth Stevenson, born 1874, married LeMoyne Parkinson in 1903. She died at her sister's home in Newark, N. J., her death preceding that of her sister by only three months. She left one son, Philip Parkinson, born August 9, 1904, and who married Eleanor Montgomery of Newark, N. J., January 5, 1926. They have one child, Herbert, born 1927,

and live in Newark, N. J. Mrs. Ellen Stevenson, who made her home with her daughters following the death of Dr. Stevenson, now lives in Wilkinsburg, Pa.

3. Samuel, the first son and third child of William and Mary (Shirk) Bell, was born in 1847. His name was a common one in the Bell family. He married Elizabeth Dilley and had two sons, born in 1893 and 1895. Samuel Bell died in 1927. His son Russell married Wina Ellison and they have three daughters, Mary Elizabeth, Janet and Berenice. Samuel Bell, Jr. married Jane Michels. Their father succeeded to the ownership of the old farm and here he raised his sons who in turn have developed a fine fruit farm on the old acres near West Middlesex.

4. John Walter, second son of William and Mary Bell was born March 13, 1850 and died Feb. 26, 1925. He married his cousin, Lois, daughter of Andrew Jackson Shirk. They had two children; the son, Max Bell, married Clara Tagley of Nymore, Minnesota, and they are the parents of five children: Lois Maxine, born March 21, 1919; Nieta Lorraine, born July 31, 1921; Thomas Philip, born October 16, 1923; Daniel Frederick, born April 13, 1926; and Pricilla May, born February 6, 1931; all born at Bermidji, Minnesota. The daughter Zenda married Dennis Conners; their son Timothy Lawrence Conners, was born at Bermidji, Minn., November 30, 1926, and Dennis, Jr. born April 1932, at Marshfield, Wisconsin, where they now make their home.

5. The fifth child and third son of William and Mary Bell was named for a great friend of the family, Dr. Thomas Woods of Pulaski, Mercer County, Pa. Woods Bell was born May 20, 1852 and died October 20, 1915. His wife, Margaret Letitia, and he were the parents of four children: Thomas Fulton, born November 24, 1873; Mary Elma, born November 14, 1875; Nancy Jane, born July 28, 1883; and Margaret Florence, born April 20, 1888.

Thomas Fulton Bell and wife Mabel live at Royalton, Minn., they have one daughter, Lorna, now married. Nancy Jane Bell married William B. McLaughlin. Their home is in Minneapolis, Minn. and they have three daughters, Dorothy Bell, born 1907; Helen Margaret, born 1908 and Florence Jean, born 1910. Mary Elma Bell and Margaret Florence Bell are unmarried and with their mother, also live in Minneapolis.

6. Martha Amelia, wearing the names of her maternal grandmother and her mother's sister, was the sixth-child born to William and Mary Bell. She was born in 1855 and died unmarried in 1924. She was much beloved by her numerous nieces and nephews and the charm of the cheerful, witty and kindly manner of "Aunt Mattie" will never fade from our memory.

7. The next child born to William and Mary Bell was named Margaret Florence, born 1857. She became the wife of John Phillips and the mother of two children, Robert Gilmore and Viola Bell. Robert Gilmore Phillips married Margaret Goetz in 1920 and they have two sons, Gene Arthur and Paul Norman and they live at Youngstown, Ohio. Viola Bell Phillips married Walter Mason McBane and now lives in the East End, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. & Mrs. John Phillips lived at West Middlesex, Pa., near Youngstown, Ohio, later, and for the last twenty-five years they were residents of Girard, Ohio. Mr. Phillips passed away April 30, 1932, aged 84 years, and Mrs. Phillips is now living with her daughter at Pittsburgh, Pa. Their loss to the community will long be felt.

8. The youngest of the children of William and Mary Bell was named Nettie Jane, she was born in 1860. She married Marcus Miller and they are the parents of two sons, Joseph Wayne and Marcus Gilbert.

Joseph Wayne Miller married Dorothy Cole of Bermidji, Minn. in 1902. They have two children, Walter, born 1903, and Martha Bell, born 1907, the latter named for her great aunt Martha Bell. Walter Miller married Edna Swan of Columbus, Ohio, and they have two children, Myrtle Dorothy and Eva Jean. All reside at Girard, Ohio. Marcus Gilbert Miller married Marie Messick of Hiram, Ohio, in 1917. They have two children, McClain and Nancy. Their home is also at Girard, Ohio.

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CHAPTER X.

Morgan M. Shirk, the third child and second son of John and Martha Ann (Means) Shirk, was born near Bellefonte, Pa., June 17, 1819. It will be noticed that in the record of his birth in the family Bible, the name is for the first time spelled Shirk, although his father had gone through the war with his name so spelled on enlistment papers, etc. and his medal and the papers incident to its award are made out to JOHN SHIRK.

It was surely with happy memories of his boyhood that the father named his second son Morgan Malone, without doubt for his younger half-brother, and but for this happy incident it would have been utterly impossible to have traced the family backward or even to have learned who were the parents of our ancestor, John Shirk! That his family were all raised in Mercer county and at some considerable distance from the home of his childhood and of his mother's latter years is probably the cause of such facts having been forgotten, or recorded.

Morgan M. Shirk married in 1842, Nancy McGraw, born February 13, 1821. She was the daughter of John and Rebecca (Gordon) McGraw of near Brownsville, Pa.

Morgan M. Shirk went to Pittsburgh about 1838 where he became a partner in the business known as Shirk and Sherriff. His partner, John B. Sherriff, was a descendant of the family of Sherriffs who had presumably come to Mercer county from Ohio about 1825. The fact that John Sherriff of Mercer was a copper-smith and that John B. Sherriff and Morgan M. Shirk were partners in a copper-smithing business leads us to form the above conclusions, lacking printed evidence of the fact. It is said that Morgan M. Shirk met his wife at the home of his business partner where she was visiting her sister Sarah (McGraw) Sherriff. We believe that

both these young men had learned the trade of copper-smith in the shop of Sherriff's uncle in Mercer, and branching out for themselves, had formed a partnership and gone to Pittsburgh with the intention of embarking in the business enterprise in which they proved quite successful. Pittsburgh was growing rapidly, due in a large measure, no doubt, to its advantageous situation where it commanded the river trade to the west, and the ever-increasing steamboat trade furnished much business in boat construction and fitting, the firm of Shirk and Sherriff doing much of the latter class of work. They were very successful in their venture, "commencing without capital", as he said, they located on Market Street, near Diamond, now in the very heart of the business district of the city, and "in two years' time" - so he tells his father in a letter dated November 11, 1843, they had "grown so fast that it was necessary to take on more apprentices."

Their business continued to prosper and he was in a fair way to become a financially successful man when his useful, busy life was cut short. Driving with his wife and eldest child, Martha, and the baby, Frank, to visit his parents in Mercer county, he stopped his buggy and got out to shoot some game as a present to his mother. In removing the gun from the bed of the buggy, the trigger caught and he received a mortal wound. He died less than an hour later near Wurtemberg (now in Lawrence county) where his wife had frantically driven to hunt help. This occurred October 6, 1854, when he was in his 36th year.

The great fire in 1845, which almost destroyed the city of Pittsburgh, necessitated the hurried removal of his wife and new born baby and two year old Martha, to the north side of the Allegheny River. He purchased the Iten property on Spring Hill, overlooking the city, and here the other three children were born and the five grew to maturity. The eldest child was but eleven and the baby seven months old when he met his untimely death.

Morgan Shirk was a member of St. John's Lodge, F. & A. M. No. 219, of Pittsburgh, at the time of his death.

1. Martha Ann, born July 24, 1843, the first child of Morgan and Nancy (McGraw) Shirk "was named for her grandmother", as the father proudly writes to the family at Deer Creek, Mercer county. She married, April 14, 1869; Jacob Brickley Hammer, of Wrightsville, Pa. He was born August 12, 1846 and was the son of Samuel and Mary (Streher) Hammer of York county, Pa. There were two children of this union, Nancy Bell, born August 29, 1870 (the author), who was named for her maternal grandmother and for "dear Aunt Mary Bell", and a son, Alfred Shirk Hammer, born February 27, 1873. The former was born on the site of old Fort Duquesne (in Pittsburgh), and the latter in Allegheny City near the old Shirk homestead on Spring Hill.

Nancy Bell Hammer, daughter of J. B. and Martha Ann (Shirk) Hammer, married November 19, 1896, Philander Betts 3rd, of Washington, D.C., son of Philander Betts Jr. and Sarah (Demarest) Betts of Hackensack, N. J. They have one son, Philander Hammer Betts, born November 17, 1897 in Washington, D. C. Their present home is in Belmar, N. J. Philander H. Betts married June 3, 1933 Ruth Marie Johnson of Ocean Grove, N.J.

Alfred Shirk Hammer, son of J. B. and Martha Ann (Shirk) Hammer died unmarried Dec. 5, 1925 at Bethlehem, Pa., where he had located several years before. He is buried in Memorial Cemetery, Bethlehem.

Martha Ann (Shirk) Hammer entered into rest October 13, 1911, after a long period of suffering, surviving her husband by only a few months, he having died February 16, 1911. Both are buried in the Shirk plot in Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh.

2. Milton Bird Shirk, the second child and eldest son of Morgan M. and Nancy (McGraw) Shirk, was born at Pittsburgh, Pa., March 29, 1845. He was named for the celebrated Cumberland Presbyterian divine of whose church in Pittsburgh the family were members, and who no doubt baptized his namesake. Milton Shirk died unmarried Dec. 26, 1897 after a short illness. He is buried in the family plot in Allegheny cemetery.

3. Albert James was the name given the third child and second son of Morgan M. and Nancy Shirk. He was born February 27, 1847 and married October 13, 1869, Olivia Arris who was born in Allegheny City May 8, 1850. (A.) James Shirk died Nov. 11, 1913, and is buried in the family plot in Allegheny cemetery.

James and Olivia (Arris) Shirk had five children, Morgan Malone, born September 19, 1870; Frank Albert, born 1873; Anna Margaret, born January 7, 1875; Ella Blanche, born May 31, 1878; Albert Reed, born December 30, 1884.

Morgan Malone Shirk, who wears his grandfather's full name, married Elizabeth M. Schmitt July 3, 1899. They have one son, James Daniel, born March 1, 1901 who married Colleta Ube. Morgan Shirk's home is at Elwood City, Pa.

Frank Albert Shirk, married Rose Simpson. Their children are Olivia E. (now Mrs. Thomas) and Frank Albert, Jr. Their home is in East End, Pittsburgh.

Anna Margaret Shirk married December 24, 1901, Seymour Montooth of Pittsburgh. They are the parents of two daughters, Dorothy, born November 14, 1902, and Helen Mae, born April 14, 1908. They live in Wilkinsburg, Pa.

Ella Blanche Shirk married A. K. Streiner, July 3, 1898.. Their children are James Seymour, Helen M., and Althea K., and their home is at Pitcairn, Pa. James Seymour Streiner was born April 13, 1899; he married Cleo Brown, June 13,

1929, and they are the parents of James S. Streiner, Jr., born August 5, 1930. Helen M. Streiner, born Oct. 18, 1903, married George W. Wright, August 13, 1927. Their son Herbert N. Wright was born May 23, 1928; Althea K. Streiner was born February 16, 1913.

Albert Reed Shirk, youngest child of James and Olivia Shirk, married Lauretta A. Stadelman who was born July 13, 1894. They have one son, Milton Reed, born July 13, 1928. This child was the youngest descendant at the grave-marking ceremony of his great-great-grandfather and is a typical black-eyed Shirk.

4. William Shirk, fourth child of Morgan M. and Nancy (McGraw) Shirk, was born May 7, 1850. He married, October 18, 1878, Katherine Slemmons of West Middlesex, Pa. After their marriage he located near his wife's home and ever after was identified with his locality. He died January 8, 1929 and is buried in Haywood Cemetery, West Middlesex. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church of West Middlesex.

William and Katherine (Slemmons) Shirk were the parents of children as follows:

Nannie, named for her father's mother, was born July 1, 1879 and is now Mrs. James Lees of Plainfield, Conn. and is the mother of seven children. Elizabeth, born September 22, 1883, married Oliver Burrows of Hubbard, Ohio. They are the proud parents of a large family. Milton, born May 2, 1888, lives with his mother in the old home near West Middlesex. He was named for his father's eldest brother and like him is also a bachelor.

5. John Frank Shirk, youngest child of Morgan M. and Nancy (McGraw) Shirk, was born March 10, 1854. He was a pharmacist by profession and established himself in the drug business in Wheeling when quite a young man. Here he met and married charming Sally Porter

(born December 20, 1856). Their home has always been at Edgington Lane, a suburb of Wheeling, and here they raised their family of six children: Clara E., born August 5, 1882; Earl M., born September 2, 1884, Walter A., born July 26, 1887, Martha A., born July 20, 1890, Mai Belle, born May 24, 1896, and Sara Elizabeth, born April 20, 1901.

The second son, Walter, died in the prime of his young manhood, February 4, 1909. Earl M. Shirk is the Engineer of Belmont County and lives at St. Clairsville, Ohio. He is the father of a five year old (1930) namesake of his great-great-grandfather, John Shirk. To this little lad fell the honor of planting the flag on his great-great-grandsire's grave at the ceremony of September 13, 1930. Through the courtesy of Earl M. Shirk we have the portrait of our ancestors shown in this sketch of their family.

John Frank Shirk is the oldest living grandson of John and Martha Ann Shirk. He with Charles B. Shirk, (son of Andrew, son of John and Martha Shirk), appear in the center of the family-group photograph made at the old homestead at Milledgeville, September 13, 1930.

Nancy (McGraw) Shirk married the second time in 1864, John Benson of Allegheny City, by whom she had a daughter, Katie. She married Samuel Sturm, also of Allegheny City, and died at the birth of her son Milton, in 1886. Nancy (McGraw) (Shirk) Benson was an invalid for several years before her death on June 5, 1885. She is buried in the Shirk Lot in Allegheny Cemetery.

Although not a descendant of John Shirk, no family history of the Morgan M. Shirk family would be complete without mention of "Aunt Jennie McGraw". Losing her mother when quite a little girl, she afterwards lived with her Aunt Nancy and was her stay and comfort during

the latter's last long illness. She has lived a long and useful life, beloved by a host of grandchildren of her Aunt Nancy who have had no other name for her than "Aunt Jennie". She lives on Spring Hill, Allegheny City (now known as North Side, Pittsburgh) a short distance from the site of the old Shirk home and is Aunt Jennie to hosts of adoring children of the neighborhood as well as to their parents. She is a valued member and regular attendant of the Central Presbyterian Church.

She died quite recently, March 2, 1934, aged 84 years, and is buried in the Shirk family plot.

CHAPTER XI

OLIVER PERRY SHIRK

When the third son and fourth child of John and Martha Ann (Means) Shirk was born, August 5, 1821, in Centre County, we can imagine with what pride his father named him for his honored commander, Oliver Perry Shirk.

Perry Shirk was about 20 years old when his parents moved to Deer Creek, Mercer County, now called Milledgeville. In 1847 he married Jane Marsteller, daughter of George Marsteller of Mount Vernon Township, Mercer County.

When he set about establishing a new home for his young family he bought 100 acres of his father's farm, and built a fine house directly on the Cochran road. He was the only one of John Shirk's sons to remain in the neighborhood of the old home, and was, no doubt, a great comfort to the old couple in their latter days. It is recalled that his brother Joseph, who was a contractor, built the house, and that the young brother Walter worked as a carpenter on it. Needless to say, it was well built and stands today an example of the honest construction of three-quarters of a century ago. It is now the home of Mr. Heltzell the present owner of the two Shirk farms, the original holding of John Shirk.

"O. P.", as he was familiarly known in the neighborhood, was not only a successful farmer, but was active in school matters in the community and served in several capacities on the boards of the township. He and his family attended the Methodist Church and their burial is in the Deer Creek Methodist Cemetery. Like his father, he was a staunch Democrat.

Oliver Perry Shirk and Jane (Marsteller) Shirk were the parents of eight children, six of whom grew to maturity. In the cemetery which adjoins the Methodist Church we find

two small graves which bear mute testimony to the sorrow that visited this family so many years ago, when the two eldest children were carried off by diphtheria but ten days apart as the dates on their gravestones show:

"James M. Shirk, son of O. P. and Jane Shirk, died Feb. 6, 1856, aged 6 years, 3 months, and 8 days."

"Mary E., daughter of O. P. and Jane Shirk, died Feb. 16, 1856, aged 7 years, 10 months, and 7 days."

Their full names must have been James Madison and Mary Eleanor since they are remembered as "Madison" and "Nancy".

The other children of Perry and Jane Shirk were: Martha Jane, Jesse, George, Janet, Olive, and Adda Belle.

3. Martha Jane Shirk married John Baughman of French Creek Township and had children Lucinda, Muzetta, Alice, Edith, Oliver, and Myrtle. Lucinda Baughman married Albert Firster and had children, Laurence and Martha. Laurence Firster and his wife Alice are the parents of two children, Laurence, Jr., and Marie. Martha Firster married Milton Weigant and also has two children, Milton, Jr. and Billy. Muzetta Baughman married William Bell, their home is in Meadville and they have no children. Alice Baughman married James Ramsey and had three children, Catherine, Jessie and Edith. Catherine Ramsey married Harold Wagner and has two sons, James and Harold. Jessie Ramsey married Clifford Wescott, no children. Edith Ramsey is also married. Edith Baughman married Walter Peterson and had two children, Merle and Geraldine. Merle Peterson married Sarah Howeck and has one little son, "Billy Jimmy". Oliver Baughman married Bessie Steadman and had two children, Kenneth and Harold.

Myrtle Baughman married James E. Bailey, their home is in Scranton and they have no children. Mrs. Baughman married again to Mr. Wesley Steadman, she makes her home with her daughters, Mrs. William Bell and Mrs. James E. Bailey.

4. Jesse Shirk is survived by his wife, nee Anne Billings; they had three children all of whom survive the father; Edna Shirk married Guy E. Eckles; his son Jesse Shirk, Jr., and his wife Edna Ellen Shirk; also Oscar P. Shirk (the other son of Jesse and Anna Shirk), and his wife Mary, reside in New Castle, Penna.

5. George Shirk and his wife Emma George had children, Florence, Ralph, and Winifred. Florence died unmarried; Ralph Shirk married Lillian Baker and they have one child, Gladys; Winifred Shirk married William Rock and has one child, Florence. The father of this family died some time since. His widow, son Ralph, and daughter, Mrs. William Rock, all live in Meadville, Penna.

6. Janet Shirk married James Mellon, by whom she had three children, Carl, Clarence and Edgar; Carl Mellon married Edna Smock and had one child, Josephine; Clarence Mellon married Elizabeth Hoag and has four children, Charles, Edward, Genevieve and Martin; Edgar Mellon is unmarried. Mrs. Mellon surviving her husband, married second, George Campbell of Niles, Ohio.

7. Olive Shirk married Joseph Bell and had three children, Effie, Earl and Mary. Effie Bell married Harvey Free and had nine children, Laurence, Estell, Lester, Olive, Sylvester, Joseph, Nellie, Helen and Mary. Mary married John Palm and had two children, Jack and Paul. Earl Bell, the only son of Olive Shirk and Joseph Bell, is unmarried, he is the owner of his father's farm near Milledgeville and occasionally makes it his home, for he is a great traveller. This farm, situated

about one mile from the old Shirk home is the nearest place to the old homestead now occupied by a direct descendant of John Shirk. Mr. Bell has always shown a fine spirit of hospitality toward those of the Shirk tribe who visit the neighborhood to see the old homestead. On this Earl Bell farm is the old Bell Burying Ground, and tradition says within its bounds once stood the first Presbyterian Church of the neighborhood, known as the Free Presbyterian Church. When John Bell joined the Milledgeville Presbyterian Church in 1863, the moderator noted in the record that he was "the last surviving elder of the Free Presbyterian Church in the vicinity."

8. Adda Bell Shirk, the youngest child of Perry and Jane Shirk, married John Cratty and was the mother of two daughters, Genevieve and Ethel. The latter died in her early twenties; she was at the time of her death a deaconess in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Genevieve married Orhan Howard, no children of this union.

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CHAPTER XII

AMELIA SHIRK BELL

The fifth child of John and Martha Ann Shirk was their daughter Amelia who was born on February 16, 1823 in Shenango Township, at that time in Mercer County. The popular wife of the local Presbyterian minister was Mrs. Amelia Tait and it is presumed that they named their baby daughter for the wife of the minister who baptized her. She was a beautiful woman and the name Amelia has always been dear because of its having been worn by such a lovable, cheerful and devout character.

Amelia Shirk married Robert W. Bell. He was born in 1816 and both died in 1893, aged respectively 70 and 77 years. They lived in Milledgeville after they were married and for some time lived at the old Shirk homestead. They were living there and comforting the latter days of their mother, Martha Ann Shirk, when the latter died in 1869, having survived her husband by only eighteen months. They were members of the Milledgeville Presbyterian Church having united by letter from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1869, and being dismissed by letter February 10, 1871, at which time they were establishing a new home elsewhere, probably at Lebanon.

They were the parents of six children, Martha Jane, born 1846; Mary, born 1848; William, born 1850; John, born 1854, Sarah Teressa, born 1856; and Harriet Ellen, born 1860.

1. The first daughter born 1846, died in 1882.

2. Mary, who wore the name of her great-grandmother as well as that of her Aunt Mary Bell, married Morrison Walker. He was born 1844, and he survived his wife by four years, dying in 1919. They were the parents of three

daughters, Ellen, born 1868; Lena W., born 1870, and Sarah Amelia, born 1876. The two latter both died in the flush of young womanhood, being but 16 and 17 years of age.

The family moved to New Wilmington in 1878. Here the oldest daughter Ellen attended school, later attending Grove City College and Edinboro State Normal School. After graduation she taught for three years and then began intensive training for the medical profession at the Cleveland Medical College which has since been merged with the Ohio State University, of which she is an alumna. She began her medical practice in 1894 at Greenfield, but shortly after the family moved to Sharon where she enjoyed an ever-increasing popularity as a physician. In 1918 she married Mr. Edwin Berry and moved to Erie where she has since made her home and where she continues her practice. She was a member of the staff of Buhl Hospital of Sharon for sixteen years, and has always been a member of the National Homeopathic Society. We do not doubt she has inherited from her dear mother the soothing touch, the ready sympathy and resourcefulness in the sick-room with which she was so signally gifted. But for her mother's skill in nursing, this modest memorial to her grandfather would not have been written.

Mrs. Amelia Tait was a pioneer in temperance work in Mercer County, being a member of the W.C.T.U., and surely she would have been very happy could she have but foreseen that the daughter of the baby to whom she gave her name in 1823, is now a life member of the W.C.T.U. and also actively identified with Missionary and Social Service work. She has followed in the faith of her fathers, being a devout member of the Presbyterian Church.

Morrison Walker was quite gifted musically and while living in Milledgeville was the conductor of the church choir. Many happy memories are cherished of the choir rehearsals at

the old homestead, which were always happy social gatherings. Dr. Berry represented the Shirk family at the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Milledgeville Church and was one of the interesting speakers of that occasion. At this meeting was presented as a memorial to our great-grandparents who were among the seventeen organizing members of this congregation in 1857, a beautiful flag which was much admired and is much cherished by the congregation.

3. William C. Bell, eldest son of Robert and Amelia Shirk Bell, married Sarah Yarran (born 1854). The children of this marriage are Edna M., born 1882, Ralph R., born 1884, and Benjamin W., born 1885. The father of this family died in 1925. Edna M. Bell married Paul L. Marshall who was born 1881. Their home is in Sharon, Pa. Ralph R. Bell married Ora Garrett (born 1883) and they are the parents of three living children, Kenneth L., born 1908, Martha Ellen, born 1917, and Sarah Louise, born 1920. Their home also is in Sharon. Benjamin W. Bell married Viola Smith, born 1880, their children being William, born 1912, Mary L., born 1914, and Benjamin, Jr., born 1916.

4. John Bell, proudly bearing his grandfather's name, second son of Robert and Amelia Shirk Bell, married Ina Burgess who survives her husband; he having died in 1922. Their only child, Harry K. Bell, and his wife Mary F. Bell, live in New Castle, Penna.

5. Sarah Teressa Bell, born 1856, died 1879.

6. Harriet Ellen Bell, born 1860, died 1885.

This concludes the records in hand of the Amelia Shirk Bell family.

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CHAPTER XIII

MARJORIE SHIRK LONG

Marjorie, the sixth child of John Shirk and Martha Ann Shirk, was born May 17, 1825 in Shenango Township, near West Middlesex, Mercer County. In the family Bible it will be observed that the name was spelled Marjaryan.

When she was nineteen years of age she married Griffith Long, son of one of the earliest settlers of Mercer County; his father was the first postmaster of Milledgeville and had been a resident of French Creek Township since 1831. Griffith Long is a descendant of Colonel Cookson Long of the Revolution, who was "very active in the defence of the frontier of the Upper Susquehanna, and whose father, we are told, was a silversmith and came to what is now the site of the town of Lock Haven, in 1772, from the Juniata Valley." Where the Bald Eagle Creek flows into the Susquehanna, stood the westernmost fort of the valley, called Fort Reid, though it was probably nothing more than a stockaded log house. This stood where is now Water Street, Lock Haven. Colonel Long (familiarily called "Cocksey Long") was for a time in command here and was actively engaged later in the war as far south as Fort Augusta (Sunbury).

Griffith Long, following the family tradition, early enlisted in the Civil War, although he had a young family, the baby being but one year old at the time. During his absence his wife became seriously ill; he succeeded in getting a furlough to come home to see her, and returning to his company believed she would soon improve in health. Sad to say, she never fully recovered her health and died a few years later in 1869, a comparatively young woman, leaving a family of six children: Mary, born 1845; George, born 1848; James, born 1851; Martha Alice, born 1854; John, born 1857; and Sarah born 1860.

1. Mary, the eldest daughter of Griffith and Marjorie Long, was married before her mother's death to Joseph Porter. She died in 1901 having been the mother of seven children: Katherine, Jane, George, Alice, Marjorie, Mae, Ray, and Harold. Katherine Porter, born 1863, died in 1926; she married George Gron in 1883, and had three children, Wayne, born November 1884, Charles, born December 20, 1891, and Clifford, born January 25, 1894. Wayne Gron, the eldest son, married Nellie Flynn, July 17, 1907; they are the parents of three daughters, Helen, Gertrude and Jean. Charles Gron, the second son of George Gron and Katherine Porter, married Helen L. Trevarrow, and they have one son, William. The third son, Clifford, married Violet A. Raisch, July 1912. He also has a family of three girls, Ethel, Katherine and Jane. The Gron family lives in Akron, Ohio.

Jane Porter, the second daughter of Joseph and Mary (Long) Porter, married William Kirkpatrick in 1897. They have two daughters, Marjorie, born 1899, and Mary, born 1900. The latter married Alfred L. Cochran in 1928, their son, George William, was born 1929. The Kirkpatrick family lives in Clarendon, Pa.

George, the eldest son of Joseph and Mary Porter, was born in 1869 and he and his wife, Hattie, live in Oil City, Pa.

Alice, the fourth child of Joseph and Mary Porter, was born in 1872. She married Charles Mason in 1890 and had children, Marion, Nina, George, and Charles, Jr. Mrs. Mason survives her husband and lives in Meadville, Pa.

Marjorie May, youngest daughter of Joseph and Mary Porter, born 1877, married Leslie Byers in 1898 and has one daughter, Vera, who was born in 1900. The Byers home is in Everett, Washington.

Ray, second son of Joseph and Mary Porter, was born 1883; in 1910 he married Lydia _____ and his home is also in Everett, Washington.

Harold, the youngest son of the family, was born in 1890, and was married in 1912.

4. Martha Alice Long, second daughter of Griffith and Marjorie (Shirk) Long, married in 1872, Josiah Marsteller of West Middlesex. He was born 1850, the son of Benjamin Armstrong Marsteller and Elizabeth (Wirt) Marsteller. John Marsteller, the father of Benjamin A. Marsteller, was one of the pioneers of Mercer County, having settled on the farm which is still in possession of his descendants near West Middlesex.

Josiah and Martha Alice (Long) Marsteller were the parents of four daughters: E. Ione, born 1875, Grace, born 1879, Arimathea, born 1882, and Marjorie Belle, born 1888.

Ione, eldest daughter of Josiah and Martha Marsteller, married in 1896, Charles Albert McCloskey of Mercer County. Their only son, Nelson who was born 1898, married Dorothy Farnsworth in 1919 and their daughter, born 1920, is called Martha Janette. The C. A. McCloskey farm is near West Middlesex and is the original Andrew Jackson Shirk holding.

Grace, the second daughter of Josiah and Martha Marsteller, died when quite young, - in 1888.

Arimathea, the third daughter of the family, was named for her father's sister. She married Albert Brant Livermore, son of Francis Marion and Lydia Anna (Tate) Livermore of West Middlesex, and here they make their home.

Marjorie Belle, the youngest of the four daughters of Josiah and Martha Marsteller, married J. Frank Bovard and they are the parents

of four children: Arimathea, the proud possessor of this unusual family name, was born in 1915; John J., born 1919; Marjorie Grace, whose name recalls her ill-fated grandmother and the little sister who died so young, was born 1922; and Frances Jean, the youngest, born 1926. Mr. Bovard as well as his wife can be proud of their Revolutionary ancestry. Their home is in New Castle, Pa.

Josiah Marsteller was an unusually successful farmer; his death in 1891 was not only a great loss to his family, but to the community as well. He is remembered by his many friends and neighbors as a man of sterling worth and rare ability. His wife, lovingly called "Mattie Marsteller" by her large circle of friends, passed to her reward in 1928, leaving to family and friends alike, a fragrant memory of a lovely, kindly spirit. She was in her early teens when her mother died and she spent much of her girlhood with her grandparents. Many were her recollections of the wise counsel of her Grandmother Shirk, whose namesake she was, and of the happy days on the old farm at Milledgeville. After the death of her husband, she with her daughters left the Middlesex farm and moved nearer town. A few months before his death, her Uncle Lafayette Shirk came to make his home with her, two of her daughters having married and created homes of their own before that time.

Josiah Marsteller and his wife Martha Alice are buried in the Marsteller plot in Haywood Cemetery, West Middlesex.

6. Sarah, the youngest of the six children of Griffith and Marjorie (Shirk) Long, married John Burch. She died in 1913, the mother of three children: Claire G., born 1879; Roy, born 1881; Harrison, born 1890. This family lives at Kuskaqua, McKean County, Pa.

Of the three sons of Griffith and Marjorie Long, none lived beyond their early twenties. Regretfully we note that the name Long is thus extinct in this family.

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CHAPTER XIV

WALTER SHIRK

The seventh son of John and Martha Ann (Means) Shirk was called Walter. We have not found this name anywhere in the Shirk family previous to this time and believe it must have been derived from his mother's family. The fact that in later years he signed himself Walter M. strengthens this supposition.

Walter Shirk was born July 3, 1827, in Shenango Township, Mercer County. He died September 17, 1908 in Poynette, Wisconsin. In 1855 he married Buelah Johns, daughter of a Welsh family whose home was in Mercer County. She was born in 1829 and died February 18, 1912, thus surviving her husband by four years.

Walter and Buelah Shirk had two children, Della May, born May 8, 1856, and John Emerson, born December 10, 1858, both in Mercer County.

When the children were but two and four years of age, the young couple decided to follow the advice of Horace Greeley and "go west" and having heard, no doubt, from the Bell cousins who had gone out there a few years before, of the fine opportunities offered in the new state of Wisconsin, they decided to locate there. In the early fall of 1860 they started for the new home. We do not doubt they anticipated much pleasure from the trip, especially that part of the journey that would be made by boat on the Great Lakes.

The time of the journey of this family to the west is established by the fact that they were fortunate enough to miss the lake steamer The Lady Elgin, which burned to the water's edge on September 8, 1860 on Lake Michigan near Racine, Wisconsin, with the loss of nearly all aboard, and they were compelled to take the next boat.

Their first home in Wisconsin was at Juda where his ~~growing~~ ability as a carpenter made him doubly welcome in this young and growing community. A short while after they moved to Monroe and still later to Cambria in the same state.

In 1885 they moved to Poynette, Wisconsin, where the son, John E., met and married Hattie E. Robinson in the following year. She was born September 15, 1868.

Shortly after, John E. Shirk, a printer by trade, ventured into the newspaper business at Fox Lake where he published the "Fox Lake Breeze". Later he moved to the growing town of Tomahawk, Lincoln County, where he started the first newspaper in the town and called it "The Tomahawk".

About 1892 they moved to Glenwood, in the western part of the state, where he started another newspaper, this time with the assistance of his father and new and enlarged equipment. This venture was "The Glenwood Tribune".

But the ambitious young man's career was cut short, for he died suddenly June 24, 1898. His widow carried his body to her home town, Poynette, for burial. His parents, Walter and Buelah Shirk, who had been living at Tomahawk, now moved to Poynette where they continued to make their home during the remainder of their lives. Both are buried, as is their son John E., in Hillside Cemetery at Poynette, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

The widow of John E. Shirk continues to make her home in Poynette but spends the winters in Florida.

Della May, the only daughter of Walter and Buelah Shirk, married Charles Deming of Wisconsin. They moved to Los Angeles, Calif., where she died suddenly of heart disease, Oct.

8, 1922. Her husband survived her but four years. Both are buried in Los Angeles. Della Deming is remembered as a clever, talented woman by those few of the cousins who were fortunate enough to have kept in touch with her.

As neither the son, John Emerson Shirk, nor the daughter, Della Shirk Deming, had any children, there were no heirs of Walter Shirk living at the time of the creation of the Estate of John Shirk Bell of Hubbard, Ohio, in 1924.

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Note-

Recent research leads to the belief that Walter M. Shirk was not named for a member of the Means family but for Walter Mitcheltree, Mrs. Mitcheltree being Hester Means, his maternal aunt, whose home was near that of her sister, Mrs. John Shirk.

CHAPTER XV

MARGARET JANE SHIRK BELL

The eighth child of John Shirk and Martha Ann (Means) Shirk was (Martha) Jane, born Jan. 17, 1829 in Shenango Township, Mercer County.

She married Hiram A. Bell about 1860. He was born February 28, 1828, as we learn from his tombstone, and died October 16, 1906, having survived his wife by nearly three years, her death having occurred May 27, 1904.

They are both buried in the graveyard adjoining the old Veach Methodist Episcopal Church near Hubbard, Ohio. Here also lie Thomas Bell and Isabelle, his wife, the parents of Hiram Bell, as well as of Alexander and the sisters, Mary Dalby and Jane Veach.

Thomas Bell died February 11, 1881, aged 81 years and 6 months.

Hiram Bell and Jane (Shirk) Bell had two sons, Thomas G. and John Shirk Bell, bearing respectively the paternal and maternal grandfathers' names.

1. The grave of the little son Thomas G. lies beside that of his parents in the Veach graveyard, the gravestone reading, "son of Hiram and Jane Bell, died October 18, 1876, aged 9 years, 6 months."

2. The second son, John Shirk Bell, named for his grandfather, the subject of this little book, was born July 25, 1869. He grew to man's estate in Hubbard, Ohio, and married, in 1904, Margaret Irene Hogue of West Middlesex, Mercer County, Pa. She was born August 6, 1879, and died February 15, 1920. John Shirk Bell died August 18, 1924. He and his wife are buried in Oakdale cemetery. They had no children.

John Shirk Bell was a valued member of the congregation of the Disciples Church of Hubbard, and was on the staff of the Hubbard National Bank at the time of his death. A successful business man, frugal and retiring by nature, he left a considerable estate, but failed to dispose of it by will.

To this kinsman, almost unknown to her, the writer desires to credit the incentive for the gathering together of the material in this family history. The difficulty experienced by his administrators in locating the beneficiaries of his estate through the heirs of his grandfather, John Shirk, emphasized how little the latter's descendants really knew of one another, and the portion of the John Shirk Bell estate which came to the author has aided materially in the expense incident to the searching for, and preserving of, this family data. The writer wishes here to voice her thanks to the memory of one who was largely responsible for this memorial to his worthy grandsire.

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CHAPTER XVI

We believe it will be of interest if an attempt be here made to explain the relationship of the various Bells who have intermarried with the Shirk family.

Three of John Shirk's daughters married men named Bell, and one son also married a Bell; in the succeeding generation there were several other intermarriages of the two families, but of some of the latter we have been unable to trace relationships. However, it is highly probable that they were all of the same parent stock, descending from Thomas Bell of Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland, who, born in Ireland in 1724, died in Mahoning County, Ohio, in 1830 at the ripe old age of 106 years. It seems quite probable that this old progenitor came to Paxtang (Lancaster County at that time), during the troublous period of the French and Indian War. By successive stages as the Tax Assessment lists of the Pennsylvania Archives show, they moved toward the western part of the state, during the Revolution they probably (for he seems to have had several sons) were in Westmoreland County. Later the family is found in Washington County, and shortly before 1800, the old father and presumably two or more of his sons, moved to Mercer County, and that portion of Ohio lying adjacent to it.

William Bell, husband of Mary Shirk, and Robert Wick Bell, who married Amelia Shirk, were full cousins, being sons of brothers named Samuel and William, who were in turn sons of William Bell, born in Ireland and who is buried at Coitsville where his tombstone states that he died in 1851, aged 97 years.

Hiram Bell who married Jane Shirk was the son of Thomas who was a brother of Robert W. Bell.

We are indebted to Mr. William Bell of Youngstown for the following amusing analysis

of the relationships of these three men and their wives:

"William and Robert's children would be second cousins and by the marriage to the sisters would make them first cousins again.

"Robert's marriage to Amelia would make Jane his sister-in-law. Hiram, being a nephew of Robert's, when he married Jane, makes Robert uncle to his sister-in-law, and Amelia aunt to her sister Jane, and Hiram a brother-in-law to his Aunt Amelia.

"Robert's children and Hiram being cousins, by Hiram's marriage would make him his cousin's uncle.

"Hiram's and Jane's children would be cousins to Robert's children also."

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CHAPTER XVII

JOSEPH SHIRK

Joseph, the ninth child of John and Martha Ann Shirk, was born in Shenango Township, Mercer County, Penna., April 4, 1831.

Perhaps the inheritance of this fine old name may have foreordained also the inheritance of those traits of character, the sturdy self-reliance, the adventurous spirit, the ambition to attain to the finer things of life, which were the characteristics of his worthy ancestors of the same given name. The Josephs of the tribe of Shirk have been outstanding people of their time: the patriarch of the family, Joseph Shirk of Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, the immigrant of 1727, was chosen as the forerunner of the family to America by his father and brothers, and his grandson Joseph was one of the two leaders of that migration of Mennonites to Canada in 1799 whose descendants are legion and people high in social and professional standing. Then there was the grandfather of our present subject, - only a young man of great force of character would have undertaken such a migration as did he at the age of 25, with three younger brothers, two young children, one and three years of age, when he and his young wife set out in quest of a new home in a territory he had never seen.

Joseph Shirk's parents were living at Milledgeville, French Creek Township, Mercer County, and he was 26 years of age when in 1857 he married Margaret Bell, daughter of a neighbor.

Two children were born of this marriage, a son and a daughter, John Morgan and Margaret Beryl, the former was but four and the latter but one and a half years old when the young mother died in 1862.

Considerable excitement was caused in adjacent neighborhoods when oil was discovered in 1859 in the Oil Creek Valley and Joseph Shirk was early interested in the possibilities of the oil-well business and busily engaged in the activities of the locality. He was living in Oil City when he married the second time -- to Miss Alvira C. Clark of Clarks Mills, Mercer County.

But he evidently tired of the oil business or the strain of the violent business competition of the day, for one year later he bought the Mascree Farm, two miles from Mercer, and moved there; and here their daughter Pearl Maud was born.

Joseph's brother Walter had heard the call of the west and had moved to Wisconsin in 1860 and his brother Jackson had gone to the western part of Ohio in 1865 and no doubt their reports of the advantages of the newer territory induced him to follow Horace Greeley's advice also, for in 1867 he took his family to Morrison, Whitehead County, Illinois, where they lived for about twelve years, and where their son Claude Joseph was born. But still further west he ventured, and in 1878 he moved to Kansas where they located on a farm at Wilbur, Saline County. Two years later they moved to McPherson County where they found at last their real and permanent home near the town of McPherson. Here they lived for over thirty years and here the father died and found his last resting place. The youngest son was born after they located in McPherson, and here the children were educated.

The son of the first marriage, John Morgan, born 1858, named for his veteran grandfather and his Uncle Morgan who had met an accidental death shortly before, has remained unmarried and now lives at Round Mountain, near Austin, Nevada.

His sister, Margaret Beryl, married Sterling Jemison and raised a fine family in Nebraska.

Pearl Maude, eldest child of Joseph and Alvira (Clark) Shirk, married Levi George Miller, a young lumber merchant of McPherson, and they made their home at Galva, a small town eight miles from McPherson. Mr. Miller's ancestor was also an early settler in Lancaster County and a member of the Mennonite Church, coming to America as did the Shirk forebears because of religious persecution. Three years after the death of her father the Millers moved to Dallas, Oregon, where they settled on a fruit farm. Here the mother joined them and spent her declining years and when she passed to her reward in 1920, having survived her husband by ten years, she was carried home to McPherson and buried beside her husband.

Dr. Claude Joseph Shirk began teaching immediately following his graduation from McPherson College and has served on the faculty of his Alma Mater, later at Ottawa University and is now associated with Wesleyan University at Lincoln, Nebraska. He married Miss Bush, a native of Kansas, and is the father of three children.

The youngest son, Professor J.A.G. Shirk, has shown by his interesting name, his father's great admiration for the martyred President of our country. He too has always been an educator, and is now on the faculty of the Kansas State Teachers College where he is Head of the Department of Mathematics and Director of Vocational Engineering. He married Miss McCoy and they have one daughter.

The following unusually complete family record has been compiled by J.A.G. Shirk and the material for this intimate family history was largely furnished by Mrs. Miller who we are pained to say, died before the completion of

this little book in which she had shown so much interest and for which she furnished much information. Two daughters and her husband survive her, and their home is in the Oakdale Community near Dallas, Oregon.

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Joseph Shirk: Born April 4, 1831, near Middlesex, Pa.; married Margaret Bell, April 12, 1857; married to Alvira Clark, October 1, 1863; died February 14, 1910 at McPherson, Kansas.

Margaret Bell: Born 1837 at Middlesex, Pa. married to Joseph Shirk, April 12, 1857; died July 1862.

Alvira Clark: Born November 27, 1840, at Clarks Mills, Pa.; married to Joseph Shirk, October 1, 1863; died March 1, 1920 at Dallas, Oregon.

Two children were born to Joseph Shirk and Margaret Bell Shirk. They were:

(1) John Morgan Shirk: Born February 14, 1858 in Mercer County, Pa., and

(2) Margaret Beryl Shirk: Born September 30, 1860 in Mercer County, Pa.; married to Sterling Price Jamison, January 15, 1880; died November 2, 1906 at Jamison, Nebraska.

Three children were born to Joseph Shirk and Alvira Clark Shirk. They are:

(1) Pearl Maude Shirk: Born October 23, 1866 at Mercer, Pa.; married to Levi George Miller, December 29, 1885;

(2) Claude Joseph Shirk: Born August 18, 1877 at Morrison, Illinois; married to Jennie Elizabeth Bush, June 14, 1905;

(3) James Abram Garfield Shirk: Born January 12, 1881 at McPherson, Kansas; married to Anna Gevene McCoy, June 30, 1908.

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Sterling Price Jamison: Born October 27, 1861 in Atchison County, Missouri; married to Margaret Beryl Shirk, January 15, 1880.

Four children were born to Sterling Price Jamison and Margaret Beryl (Shirk) Jamison. They are:

I. John Orville Jamison: Born October 12, 1880 at Wilbur, Nebraska; married to Ida Josephine Davis, August 31, 1905.

II. Grace Ellen Jamison: Born at Inman, Nebraska, November 27, 1882; married to Ernest Edwin Shattuck, January 8, 1901.

III. Della May Jamison: Born February 27, 1885 at Stuart, Nebraska; married to Solomon David Fried, December 21, 1905.

IV. Sara Elizabeth Jamison: Born November 6, 1888 in Holt County, Nebraska.

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Levi George Miller: Born October 14, 1856 at Lagrange, Indiana; married to Pearl Maude Shirk, December 29, 1885.

Two children were born to Levi George Miller and Pearl Maude (Shirk) Miller. They are:

I. Maude Mildred Miller: Born May 17, 1888 at Galva, Kansas; married to Fred W. Hughes, November 28, 1917.

II. Vera Pearl Miller: Born February 18, 1890 at Galva, Kansas.

Jennie Elizabeth Bush: Born June 17, 1884 at Inman, Kansas; married to Claude Joseph Shirk, June 14, 1905.

Three children were born to Claude Joseph Shirk and Jennie Elizabeth (Bush) Shirk. They are:

I. Eldred Claude Shirk: Born May 4, 1913 at Ottawa, Kansas.

II. Wilmer Ray Shirk: Born February 4, 1916 at University Place, Lincoln, Nebraska.

III. Kathryn Jean Shirk: Born October 3, 1919 at University Place, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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Anna Gevene McCoy: Born April 21, 1884 near Sigourney, Iowa; married to James Abram Garfield Shirk, June 30, 1908.

One child was born to James Abram Garfield Shirk and Anna Gevene (McCoy) Shirk. She is:

I. Alice Gevene Shirk: Born February 12, 1912, at Ottawa, Kansas.

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Ida Josephine Davis: Born at Persia, Iowa, March 27, 1886; married John Orville Jamison, August 31, 1905.

Thirteen children were born to John Orville Jamison and Ida Josephine (Davis) Jamison. They are:

I. Naomi Coral Jamison: Born at Jamison, Nebraska, June 19, 1906; married to William E. McConnell, March 28, 1926.

II. Price James Jamison: Born at Carlock, South Dakota, October 30, 1907; died June 27, 1910.

III. John Thomas Jamison: Born at Brocksburg, Nebraska, December 25, 1908.

IV. Orville Davis Jamison: Born at Jamison, Nebraska, September 30, 1910.

V. Ruby Mae Jamison: Born at Jamison, Nebraska, November 26, 1911.

VI. Donald Laverne Jamison: Born at Mills, Nebraska, July 22, 1913.

VII. Geral Glen Jamison: Born at Mills, Nebraska, August 26, 1914; died September 8, 1916.

VIII. Josephine E. Jamison: Born at Colonee, South Dakota, May 30, 1916.

IX. William Russell Jamison: Born at Mission, South Dakota, September 15, 1917; died October 1, 1917.

X. Vernon Eugene Jamison: Born at Mission, South Dakota, August 23, 1919.

XI. Ruth Geraldine Jamison: Born at Mission, South Dakota, October 27, 1920.

XII. Vivian Marie Jamison: Born at Carus, Nebraska, March 28, 1922.

XIII. Margaret Elaine Jamison: Born at Carus, Nebraska, February 26, 1925.

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Ernest Edwin Shattuck: Born at Gillman, Illinois, August 28, 1877; married to II Grace Ellen Jamison, January 8, 1901.

Eight children were born to Ernest Edwin Shattuck and Grace Ellen (Jamison) Shattuck. They are:

I. William Sterling Shattuck: Born Nov. 29, 1903.

II. Garnet Jaanetta Shattuck: Born Nov. 12, 1905; married to Thomas Lapworth, May 24, 1926.

III. Berl Ernest Shattuck: Born April 14, 1908.

IV. Clayton Paul Shattuck: Born September 19, 1911.

V. Harold Edwin Shattuck: Born October 11, 1914.

VI. Floyd Melvin Shattuck: Born October 7, 1917; died November 25, 1927.

VII. Loyd Elvin Shattuck: Born October 7, 1917.

VIII. Beth Ellen Shattuck: Born Sept. 13, 1922.

Solomon David Fried: Born June 28, 1876, at Oakland, Nebraska.

Three children were born to Solomon David Fried and Della May (Jamison) Fried. They are:

I. Laura Margaret Fried: Born February 24, 1908, at Carlock, South Dakota.

II. Harold Sherman Fried: Born June 8, 1911, at Carlock, South Dakota.

III. Dorothy Alice Fried: Born September 15, 1913, at Atkinson, Nebraska.

Fred W. Hughes: Born August 6, 1877 in Gosrie, Huron County, Canada; married to Maude Mildred Miller, November 28, 1917.

Two children were born to Fred W. Hughes and Maude Mildred (Miller) Hughes. They are:

I. Lois Miller Hughes: Born February 1, 1919, near Dallas, Oregon.

II. Eva Pearl Hughes: Born December 19, 1922, near Dallas, Oregon.

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William E. McConnell: Married to Naomi C. Jamison, March 28, 1926.

Three children were born to William E. McConnell and Naomi C. (Jamison) McConnell. They are:

I. Naomi Elaine McConnell: Born at Bassett, Nebraska, March 1, 1927.

II. William Ernest McConnell: Born at Rapid City, South Dakota, February 11, 1928.

III. James Eugene McConnell: Born at Rapid City, South Dakota, April 9, 1929.

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CHAPTER XVIII

LAFAYETTE SHIRK

When John and Martha Ann Shirk named their tenth child Lafayette, it was no doubt an expression of his intense patriotism, as well as admiration for the gallant Frenchman who had played such a prominent part in the Revolutionary struggle, and who had, shortly before this time, made a triumphal visit to the United States.

This sixth son of the family was born March 14, 1833, near West Middlesex. He did not marry and after the death of his parents he made his home with his sister Mary (Mrs. William Bell), and for many years "Uncle Lafe", with his bachelor eccentricities, was an integral part of the household. After the death of Mrs. Bell, he continued for a time to live with her son, Samuel, who had inherited the farm. But a few months before his death, "Uncle Lafe" went to live with his niece, Mrs. Mattie Marstellar, near West Middlesex. Here he died, January 1902, in his seventieth year, and he is buried in Heywood Cemetery, West Middlesex, in the plot of his sister, Mrs. Mary Bell.

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CHAPTER XIX

MARGARET ELLEN SHIRK

The eleventh child of the family was born April 3, 1835. She was named Margaret Ellen, we believe for her maternal aunt. She died in infancy, there is no record when or where she was buried, but we do not doubt it was somewhere in the neighborhood of her home, at that time near West Middlesex.

It is a quite remarkable fact that out of this large family of twelve children, this child should be the only one who did not live to adult years.

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CHAPTER XX

JOHN ARCHIBALD SHIRK

John Archibald Shirk, the twelfth child of John and Martha Ann (Means) Shirk, was born in Shenango Township, Mercer County - now in Lawrence County - April 25, 1836, and was but five years old when the family moved to the eastern part of the county, Deer Creek, near Milledgeville, Pa.

Here he grew up and married the daughter of their neighbor, Elder William H. Cooper, who, with his wife, Mary, and John and Martha Shirk, were among the seventeen organizing members of the Presbyterian Church of Milledgeville in 1856. When Elder Cooper passed to his reward in 1865, it was said of him that he had served the church in the capacity of Deacon and Elder for fully thirty-two years.

John A. Shirk and Clarissa Cooper (born 1842) were married in Milledgeville in 1865. They had but one child, Jessie, who was not long to know a father's care, for he died May 26, 1872 in Oil City, Pa. He is buried in the lot of his brother, O. Perry Shirk, in the cemetery of the Deer Creek Methodist Episcopal Church, where a fine stone marks his grave.

Of John Archibald we have been able to learn very little. He died when but thirty-four years old. That he was a carpenter we surmise by the fact that he helped with the construction of his brother Perry's home, still standing, and now the commodious home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Heltzell.

John A. Shirk's widow married again, to Mr. Isaac Canfield, also a resident of Milledgeville. He was born in 1836 and was a widower with two children, Ray and Lydia, when he married Clarissa (Cooper) Shirk. Mrs. Canfield survived her husband, who died in 1900. She

died in 1906, at the home of her step-daughter, Mrs. Baker Cline of West Virginia. Later, June 28, 1907, her body was moved to Cochrannton and buried beside her second husband - Canfield - in the Cochrannton Cemetery. There were no children of this marriage.

Jessie Shirk, the only child of John A. and Clarissa (Cooper) Shirk, married John R. Cannon, of Stoneboro, Pa. Sad to say, she died at the birth of her first child, Alfred J. This child was then raised by his grandmother, then Mrs. Isaac Canfield. John R. Cannon was an engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and at the time of his wife's death, they were living in Oil City. For many years before his death in the Railroad Hospital, he had been an invalid from rheumatism.

Their son, Alfred J. Cannon, in 1910 married Miss Helen Gabriel of Mercer County. Their present home is in the suburbs of Olympia, Washington. They have no children.

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CHAPTER XXI

We regret that the foregoing record of our ancestors and contemporaries of the family is not fully complete. But as no effort or time has been spared in our attempt to make it so, we deem it wiser to send forth this little family history without further delay, incomplete as it is, lest some of us, interested in its completion, be called hence before seeing it in its assembled form.

We hope this attempt to perpetuate the data of our relatives, may serve to awaken hitherto indifferent folk to an appreciation of the fact that "The character of our ancestors is part of our inheritance which we are bound by every obligation of duty to defend"; and that "They have gone from the scenes of earth forever, all they did, what they endured, how they loved, joyed and sorrowed, is as nothing now. They were a noble, enduring race of men and women, their names and deeds ought to be carried down to posterity."

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FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

BIRTHS.

John Shirich born
April 1787 -

Martha Maignes (nee Shirich)
Born May 1797 -

Andrew Jackson Shirich
Son of John & Martha Shirich
Born 26th February 1815

Mary Shirich
Daughter of John & Martha Shirich
Born May 18th 1817 -

Margaret Shirich
Son of John & Martha Shirich
Born 17 June 1819

Henry Shirich son
of John & Martha Shirich
Born 2 August 1821

Amelia Shirich
Daughter of John & Martha Shirich
Born 16th February 1823

Mary Ann Shirich
Daughter of John & Martha Shirich
Born 17 of May 1825

Robert Shirich son
of John & Martha Shirich
Born 3 July 1827

Martha Jane Shirich
Daughter of John & Martha Shirich
Born 11 January 1828

CHAPTER XXII

Although there are many Shirks in Centre County at the present time, there are none who are descendants of John Shirk, veteran of 1812. The unusual war memorial, which stands before the Court House in Bellefonte, contains the names of many Shirks who served their country in her hour of need. There were no Shirks in this neighborhood during the time of the Revolution, so none appear in the list of 1776. John Shirk was the only one of the name to enlist in Centre County for the War of 1812.

The list of Civil War veterans named Shirk follows. These men, no doubt, were all descendants of our common ancestor, John Shirk of Paradise Township, York County, by his sons Joseph (our ancestor), John, Jacob, and David. Of Joseph's descendants, however, only the sons of Joseph, Jr. can be found among them, as we have failed to learn that Jacob had any sons, and John (our ancestor), as we know, left Centre County in 1821, taking his young sons with him.

CIVIL WAR VETERANS

1. William Shirk, Eagle Guards,
Co. H, 4th Pa. Vols.
2. Joseph Shirk, Co. I, 15th Pa. Vols.
3. William Shirk, Co. E, 44th Reg.
(1st Cavalry) Pa. Vols.
4. Theodore Shirk, Corporal, Co. A,
45th Reg. Pa. Vols.
5. James Shirk, Co. B, 45th Pa. Vols.
6. James A. Shirk, Co. D, 45th Pa. Vols.
7. C. C. Shirk, Co. C, 46th Reg. Pa. Vols.
8. John Shirk, Jr., Co. B, 148th Pa. Vols.
9. Joseph Shirk, Co. B, 148th Pa. Vols.
10. Reuben Shirk, Corporal, Co. F,
148th Pa. Vols.

11. Samuel Shirk, Co. G, 184th Pa. Vols.
12. Constans Shirk, Corporal, Co. I,
200th Pa. Vols.
13. Rudolph J. Shirk, Co. G, Ind.
Battalion.

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ADDENDA

In searching for our own ancestor, the father of John Shirk, whom we later learned was Joseph Shirk, we discovered much data relative to his brothers, the other three sons of John Shirk, of Paradise Township, York County, Pa. It was but natural for the amateur searcher to presume that the "John Shirk, Sr." who appeared on assessment and other lists would be the father of "John Shirk, Jr." and all indications seemed to show that John Shirk, Jr. was our ancestor, the Veteran of 1812.

However, persistent work has shown that such deductions, although plausible, were at fault, and that John Shirk, Sr. was instead the brother of John Shirk, Jr.'s father; and that the son of John, Sr. was John E. and not John, Jr. In other words, John, Sr. was the uncle of John, Jr.

Since we have been unable to learn of any assembled record concerning these men and their families, we feel that we are justified in adding to our own printed record, such material as shall, in a measure, clarify the family history of these various brothers of our great-great-grandfather, Joseph, who accompanied him in his migration from York County to the Bald Eagle Valley.

We will again recall that Joseph, our ancestor, was the eldest of the four sons. John, the second son, was sixteen years of age in 1783, as papers in the administration of his Father's estate show. His name appears on the Tax Lists of Bald Eagle as early as 1793, but there is little doubt that he came to this neighborhood in 1790 or 1791. In 1789 his name appears as a member of the Militia in York County. He would then have been perhaps twenty-two years of age.

On June 27, 1796, he bought a hundred and fifty acres in Bald Eagle Valley, from his brother-in-law, Frederick Leathers. Four days later, he sold part of this land to Joseph Green, and it is "John Shirk and wife, Barbara" who are the parties making the sale.

His wife, Barbara, was the daughter of Jacob Boone, a cousin of Daniel Boone, and probably a brother of Joseph, who was in turn a grandson of George Boone, the progenitor of the Boone family in Pennsylvania, who came from England in 1717. He was a cousin, maybe a brother of the celebrated Captain Hawkins Boone, of the Twelfth Pennsylvania Regiment, who so distinguished himself in the Revolution, was sorely wounded at the Battle of Saratoga, and finally met a hero's death at the hands of the Indian foe at Fort Freeman, near Warriors Run, in 1782. Meginness, in his "Otzinachson" (the history of the West Branch Susquehanna Valley) says of Hawkins Boone, "He was the principal explorer and woodsman in the Bald Eagle, Nittany, and other valleys of the Upper Susquehanna," and that "He was a surveyor and knew every bit of this rugged country."

John Shirk was the father of thirteen children, evidently not all by his wife Barbara Boone, for in the settlement of the estate of his father-in-law, Jacob Boone, in 1810, Barbara did not sign the receipt with her husband, John Shirk. This would indicate that she had died before that time.

In 1816, John Shirk and Catherine Shirk, of Boggs Township, appointed Amos Underwood their attorney, who petitioned the courts of York County to effect a settlement of "Grandfather Huber's estate." On the early map of Bald Eagle Valley, in the vicinity of Central City and Milesburg, we find the "Huber Heirs" as landowners. This was confusing until the last mentioned petition was found, and it has

proven to be the connecting link between the children of John Shirk (of Paradise Township, York County, and his wife, Barbara Huber) and the men of the same name, whom we found in Bald Eagle Valley.

John Shirk died suddenly in 1825, and the papers relative to the guardians of the younger children, are signed Carina and Martha. Her name may have been Catherine Martha, for we do not feel that there was a third wife in the family. The fact that Frederick Shenk was appointed guardian of the two youngest children, leads to the thought that Carina may have been the daughter of Frederick Shenk. The first appointment, by the Court, of guardians for the minor children, was Jacob Boone, the brother of the first wife. The division of the children's guardianship between Jacob Boone and Frederick Shenk may denote the division between the children of the first wife, Barbara Boone, and the second wife, Carina (Shenk?).

John Shirk was killed while assisting at a barn-raising on his own farm. John Boggs, a son of his neighbor, Andrew Boggs, the pioneer of the valley, was killed on this same occasion. Perhaps others, of whom we have not chanced to learn, were killed also.

His widow, Carina, survived him only one year. The only record of her death was the bill for materials for her shroud. Perhaps her health was quite wrecked by the awful tragedy of her husband's death. Truly, the Bald Eagle had proven unfortunate, or unlucky, for the Shirk family. First the sudden death of Joseph, in 1794; then the death of Grandfather Leathers, in 1796, after having become the victim of the adventuress, Jane Lewis; and the consequent scattering of the family after his will disclosed that he practically disinherited them, and had given his entire estate to his wife, Jane (Lewis); then the death of

Jacob, at a comparatively early age, in 1813; and finally, the sudden death of John, in 1825.

The children of John and his wives, Barbara Boone, and Carina (Shenk), were as follows:

First, John H., who in a petition in the administration of his father's estate, refers to himself as his "father's eldest son." He was born probably in 1796, and died in 1864. He sold his share of his father's estate to Robert Lipton, the tanner, and moved to Huston Township, Centre County, where he lived until his death. The "H" in his name, we believe, was in honor of his Grandfather Huber (his mother's father).

Second, this second child was named for his maternal grandfather, Jacob Boone. He was born about 1798, married Anna Maria (?) and sold his share of his father's estate to Iddings, in 1827.

Third, was Barbara, bearing her mother's name, born about 1799 or 1800. She married Richard Burgess.

Fourth, was Mary, who married Amos Underwood. They also sold their inheritance to Iddings in 1827.

The fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth children were Catherine, Nancy, Elizabeth and Susanna, respectively. They were evidently of age in 1827, being born between 1800 and 1807, which was the birth-date of the ninth child, Samuel, who was still a minor at the time of his father's death.

Tenth, was Hettie, born perhaps in 1808, a minor in 1825. Jacob Boone, her uncle, was appointed her guardian.

The twelfth and thirteenth children were Magdalena, born in 1812, and Juliana, born about 1814. These were probably the only children of the second wife. In 1827 Frederick Sherk was appointed their guardian. The paper in reference to this appointment refers to Magdalena as being mentally deficient.

We have found the following information concerning the family of the eldest son, John H. Shirk. His wife's name was Elizabeth and they probably had eight children;

1. Malinda, born 1818.
2. Peter, born 1820, died 1892.
3. John, born about 1821, wife Alice ?.
4. Martin, born 1822, wife Susanna ?.
5. Margery, b. 1823, mar. Jesse Richards.
6. Mary, born 1825, mar. David Parsons.
7. Jacob, born 1826, wife Harriet.
8. George, born about 1830.

Peter Shirk (2) married Esther Dillon. Both are buried at Unionville, Centre Co., they were the parents of four sons and two daughters, namely, John D., William T., of Curwensville, George M. of Puxatawney, Mrs. Lucy M. Hoover, Mrs. Perry Copelin, of Phillipsburg, and Harry E. of Williamsport. The last named has three daughters.

John Shirk (3) served in the Civil War.

Jacob Shirk (7) and his wife, Harriet, are buried in Julian Cemetery, Centre County. His wife Harriet, born November 26, 1838, died July 29, 1894.

Jacob Shirk, the third son of John and Barbara (Huber) Shirk, was but eleven years old at the time of his father's death in 1783, and he was but a stripling of eighteen when he came to Bald Eagle Valley. When but twenty-two years old, he bought land from Frederick Leathers, Jr., who, we will remember, married Jacob Shirk's sister Barbara. In 1796, when his elder brother John Shirk, also bought land from Frederick Leathers, the deed describes it as "lying adjacent to that of his brother, Jacob Shirk." We presume Jacob may have married about this time, although he may have been married before 1796, for his eldest son was born in 1800, and there were probably two daughters born before the son.

Frederick Leathers had bought this land in 1791 from Christian Spade, whose warrant was dated shortly after the ratification, - in 1768 - of the earlier purchase from the Indians by the proprietories.

We have been unable to learn the full name of Jacob's wife, all we know is that she signed papers as Mary Shirk.

Jacob died in 1813. He was but forty-one years old, but must have been in ill health for some time as his will was probated seven months after it had been dated, and in it he "revokes all previous wills which he had made."

Jacob and Mary Shirk had seven children, probably born in the following order: Catherine (1797 ?), Mary (1799 ?), Daniel (1800 ?), Jacob (1801 ?), Elizabeth (1805 ?), Joseph (1806), and Rebecca (1809 ?).

These children were all minors at the time of the father's death, they were amply provided for in his will, as was his wife, Mary, who was instructed to apply the pro-

ceeds of the crops for the "upbringing and education of his children, until his son Jacob should come of age, at which time he should take over the care of the farm." He directed also that his other "sons should be put to trades" and further "that it is my * * * * * desire that my eldest son Daniel shall learn the blacksmith trade, and in case he does, I bequeath unto him, all my blacksmith tools, etc. in my blacksmith shop, and likewise a lot of twenty acres of land to be surveyed off with a parallel line to my brother John's line" * * * "when he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years."

The names of his children as appears in the widow's petition in 1815 show that (1) Daniel, (2) Catherine, (3) Mary, and (4) Jacob were above fourteen years in 1815 and that (5) Joseph, (6) Elizabeth, and (7) Rebecca were under fourteen years at that time.

On November 30, 1819, the widow of Jacob Shirk married again, to John Adams of Boggs Township.

The later history of the children of Jacob show that they did not fulfill their father's expressed desire as to their future occupations.

On April 15, 1824, Daniel Shirk, the eldest son, married Harriet Essington. His petition of April 24, 1821 states that he has arrived at the age of twenty-one and he first appears on the local tax list in 1821. A few months later, August 20, 1821, the Court appointed viewers to lay off and appraise the twenty acre tract bequeathed him when he should arrive at 21 years. Presumably he had learned the blacksmith's trade and also presumably he lived on this tract with its blacksmith shop - as mentioned in his father's will, - for a few years, but on April 6, 1830, "Daniel Shirk and wife, of Patton Township" (showing that he was

not then living on land given him by his father), sold this land to James McMasters.

Of the second son, Jacob, we learn that his petition to Court dated November 24, 1824, states that he has arrived at twenty-one years of age (born 1803).

But evidently the well-laid plans of his father to have him assume the ownership and responsibility of the farm did not influence Jacob to spend his entire life in this way, for in 1831, "Jacob Shirk and Sarah, his wife" sold their rights, "one-seventh part thereof in his father's estate situated in Bald Eagle Township" to "Jacob Kidlinger and Joseph Shirk", the purchasers being Jacob's sister Mary's husband and Jacob's youngest brother. (The stone house which still stands on his father's farm, was probably built by Jacob Shirk, Jr. between 1824 and 1831. It stands close to the road on the Lake and Sea Highway a short distance west of Central City.) Evidently at this time Jacob and Sarah Shirk moved to Ferguson Township and resided there the remainder of their lives, for they are both buried at Boalsburg. Their grave-stones read:

"Jacob Shirk - Died March 7, 1872, aged 71.
Sarah, wife of Jacob Shirk - Died April
14, 1870, aged 67 years, 2 months,
21 days."

Joseph Shirk, the youngest of the three sons of Jacob and Mary Shirk, was born, according to the records in his own family Bible, in 1806, and died April 11, 1880.

May 9, 1832, he married Eliza Benner, who was born April 25, 1810, and she died June 29, 1890.

We previously noted that Jacob, the second brother, had sold his portion of the estate to his brother Joseph and brother-in-law Jacob Kidlinger, and we further learn that Joseph sold his share to Jacob Kidlinger, November 2, 1844. Evidently before this date, perhaps at the time of his marriage in 1832, he had moved to Potter Township, where his later records are found.

The children of Joseph and Eliza (Benner) Shirk were:

1. Mary Ann, born Sept. 30, 1835; she married Daniel Fleisher, April 10, 1879.

2. Reuben Miles, born December 30, 1837; married Miss Armogast, December 22, 1860, and died October 30, 1873.

3. John Benner, born November 23, 1839; died January 1846.

4. Jinnie E., born April 30, 1841; married William B. Wagner, December 24, 1863.

5. Joseph K., born August 6, 1843; married Agnes M. Shires.

6. William B., born October 11, 1845; married Margaret Thompson, February 1871.

7. Alice, born October 21, 1847; married Brice David Brisbon, December 19, 1865.

8. Eliza Agnes, born February 28, 1850; died March 17, 1857.

9. Harry C., twin, born September 28, 1852; married Lizzie E. Ryan, December 23, 1879.

10. Linda W., twin, born September 28, 1852; married James C. Ruble, November 14, 1872.

Of the four daughters of Jacob and Mary Shirk, we have learned the following:

1. Catherine, the eldest daughter, married George Whitehill. Their daughter, Catherine Eliza, married Lyman T. Moses, May 4, 1844.

Catherine Eliza Moses and her husband (Lyman T. Moses) and Clemson Whitehill, her brother, released their rights in the Jacob Shirk estate to Jacob Kidlinger.

2. Mary Shirk married Jacob Kidlinger and they transferred their interest in the estate of her father, to her brother "Joseph Shirk of Potter Township."

3. Elizabeth Shirk married William A. Lowery, and

4. Rebecca Shirk married Lewis B. Hess.

Of David, the youngest of the four sons of John Shirk of Paradise Township, York County, we have been able to glean very little information.

His name was so garbled in the Assessment Lists that we were slow to recognize it. Between the years 1810 and 1850 his name is spelled no less than ten ways.

David was a youth of sixteen when the family moved to Bald Eagle Valley. We think it highly probable that he made his home with Joseph and stayed on the land after Joseph's death in 1794. We may allow our imagination to conceive that while building a mill (?) Joseph may have been fatally injured or killed, for as has been said before in the story of Joseph's family, no trace has ever been found of his location.

David was a miller, as only 40 acres of his land was taxed as cleared land, he probably did no farming but devoted his time to milling.

The neighborhood when this land was located was very wild and rugged, and it is conceivable that it may have been the location of Joseph's first home in the valley. Probably David succeeded to his brother's land as well as his business and with brotherly confidence never had the deed recorded, if there ever was a land transfer executed.

It is probable also that David's wife was the daughter of Frederick Shenk, whom we remember as the guardian of the two youngest children of David's brother John. One of David's sons was named John F. which strengthens such belief. Quite probably the second wife of John Shirk and the wife of David Shirk were sisters.

David Shirk died about 1850. In 1853 his forty acres of "cleared land" is assessed to "David Shirk's Heirs". In 1856 there are no Shirks on this township tax list - but the forty acres is still assessed to the Estate of David Shirk. In 1857 this land was transferred to Christian Bower. This land was in Howard Township and the returns for the Census count of 1850 give the age of "David Sherk, miller, as 75 years, John Sherk, Jr., Howard Township, aged 50 years, Jacob Sherk, aged 44 years."

This determines the year of John F. Shirk's birth as 1809. It is quite probable that there was a daughter in this family and that her married name was Mapes - and that it was at this home that Mary, widow of David's oldest brother Joseph, passed her declining years.

Many of these statements are mere surmises but we hope that should this come into the hands of members of the family who have definite, positive knowledge of the family, that they will be

good enough to send such corrections to the author. Failing such response, we can but conclude that the story as we have gathered and given it, is practically correct - as far as it goes.

N. H. B.

David Shirk born 1774, Paradise twp., York Co., Pa., died 1850 Howard twp., Center Co., Pa.; married Elizabeth Schenck (?) born 1737, died prob. 1750. They had sons, John F. born 1799 and Jacob born 1805, who evidently died unmarried.

John F. Shirk married Sarah (-----) born 1817 and had children:

Elizabeth	born 1839
Jacob T.	born 1840
Margaret E.	born 1842
David	born 1845
Means	born 1848
Susan B. }	born May 1850
Sarah M. }	



APR 75



N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

